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ASHANTI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1905.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1906.

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No. 483.

ASHANTI.

THE ACTING-GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Accra,

23rd April, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Your Lordship, herewith, the Annual Report on Ashanti for the year 1905, by the Chief Commissioner, Mr. F. C. Fuller.

2. With the exception of the important item of Revenue, which during the present year will be considerably increased by a more efficient collection of caravan tolls, the condition of Ashanti, in view of the small staff of civil officers available for administrative purpose, must be considered satisfactory. The Chief Commissioner is able to report that, generally speaking, the attitude of the Ashantis towards their rulers is one of increasing friendliness and faith, and that suspicion of ulterior motives is speedily losing ground. I am convinced, both from personal observation during my visit to Kumasi in August last year and from the independent opinions since given to me by the representatives of trading establishments and by missionaries, that real progress has been made in gaining the confidence of the Ashanti Chiefs since Mr. Fuller assumed the guidance of the Government's policy in March last year.

3. The number of civil and criminal cases heard before the Courts in Ashanti in 1905, exclusive of appeals from the decisions of native chiefs which came before the Chief Commissioner, was 3,174, as against 2,361 in the previous year. These figures support the opinion expressed by the Chief Commissioner that the Ashantis appreciate the impartiality of the British Courts of Justice, and are now disposed to place more faith in their administrators, who, it must be remembered, are not only judicial but also executive officers.

4. The Revenue shows a decrease of £1,432, as compared with that of the previous year. This decrease is due, as Mr. Fuller has pointed out, to the permission granted to the Ashanti

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Goldfields Corporation, Limited, to defer payment of royalties due to the Government.

In other respects the revenue shows fairly satisfactory increases under the heads of "Caravan taxes," "Sale of stamps," and "Rent from Government lands." The two first items may be taken to indicate activity in trade and business connected therewith, and the last to the sense of security following the peaceful administration of the past five years, which encourages traders and others to acquire land on lease for building purposes.

5. The health of the European population is reported by the Chief Commissioner to have been good, as compared with towns on the coast. I have not yet received the health statistics for the Colony for the past year, but the comparative figures for the year 1904 are as follows:—

—	Year.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
Gold Coast, Ashanti, and Northern Territories.	1904	12·80	80·38
Ashanti	1905	19·30	123·55

A well-equipped native hospital was completed at Kumasi during the year under review. A hospital for Europeans will be added in 1906.

6. The telegraph line was extended in 1905 from Attabubu, in Ashanti, to Yegi, in the Northern Territories. The extension has shortened the period required for communication with the Headquarters of the latter Protectorate by two days.

7. The opening of branch stores at Kumasi by mercantile firms on the coast, to which I referred in my despatch transmitting the Annual Report on Ashanti for 1904, has been an important factor in the development, not only of Ashanti trade, but also in that of the Northern Territories. It is satisfactory to note that two new branches were opened during the past year, and that the stores established in 1904 were able to increase their business.

8. The remarks made by the Chief Commissioner in connection with agriculture are encouraging, and I attach great importance to the establishment of a Botanical Station. The work of clearing the ground for planting on the excellent site at Kumasi, selected by the Director of Agriculture, has already been commenced under the supervision of the newly-appointed European Curator.

9. The observations made by the Chief Commissioner in connection with the education question point to a difficulty

which is of constant recurrence in the Gold Coast Colony. The tendency of Christian converts to alienate themselves from the communities to which they belong is very marked, and is naturally resented by the Chiefs, who claim their hereditary right, in which they are supported by the Government, to make the converts, in common with their fellow tribesmen, obey such laws and orders as are in accordance with native custom, not being repugnant to natural justice, equity, and good conscience. The problem requires, and, hitherto, on the whole, has been treated with tact and forbearance by the various missionary societies.

10. In conclusion, I beg to add that Mr. Fuller, during his first term of administration, has won in a marked degree the trust and respect of a people, naturally suspicious, still mindful of the events of 1900, and devoted by tradition to their hereditary king, who is in exile. I look forward with confidence to the future of Ashanti under an administrator who has shown himself so sympathetic and so strong.

I have, &c.,

H. BRYAN,

Acting Governor.

ASHANTI ANNUAL REPORT, 1905.

I.—ADMINISTRATION.

1. Ashanti is at present divided, for administrative purposes, into four districts, viz., the Central, North Eastern, North Western, and Southern, each of which is in charge of a Commissioner, with the exception of the first-mentioned, which falls directly under the control of the Chief Commissioner.

2. Owing to the promotion of the late Sir Donald Stewart, K.C.M.G., the Chief Commissionership remained vacant for several months, during which time Major Davidson-Houston acted in that capacity. The new Chief Commissioner, Mr. F. C. Fuller, arrived in the Colony on the 12th March, 1905.

Central District.

3. The Central District includes the town of Kumasi and the Ejisu, Juabin, Bompata, Obogu, Kumawu, Mampon, Insuta, Aguna, Ofinsu and Atchima tribes. It is, politically, the most important district, as it numbers 15 Head Chiefs, besides the Heads of the six great clans of Ashanti, who reside in the capital. The district extends over an approximate area of 2,700 square miles, and is, as far as Ashanti goes, thickly populated.

North Western District.

4. The North Western District includes the tribes known as British Jaman, Wanchi, Techiman, Berekum, Wam and Asunafo-Ahafo, and extends over some 5,000 square miles of country.

5. Captain Denny was in charge of this district until the advent of Commissioner Fell, in the month of July, who then took over the district.

6. The headquarters of the district have hitherto vacillated between Sikassiko and Odumase, but owing to the condemnation of the latter place by the medical faculty, it was decided to establish an altogether new station in some central position, and with this object in view buildings have been erected at Sunyani, which place will in future be the headquarters of the district. This is the largest of the districts, is well populated, rich in economic resources, and does a thriving trade in consequence.

NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT.

7. The North Eastern District includes Nkoranza, Atebubu, Abiasi, Wiasi and Kratchi, and extends over some 4,000 square miles. The headquarters station was, until recently, the town of Atebubu, where the Commissioner resided, but it was considered expedient to change his abode to Nkoranza.

8. This is the least populated and poorest of the districts, and is only of importance owing to the two caravan trade routes passing through Atebubu and Nkoranza.

9. Captain Craven was in charge of the district until he proceeded home on leave of absence in August last, when he handed over control to Mr. Berkeley, of the Preventive Service.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

10. The Southern District includes the well-known Bekwai, Kokofu, Adansi and Mansu Nkwanta tribes. In point of size it is the smallest district—comprising some 2,300 square miles only—but it is fairly thickly populated, and ranks second in point of political importance. The town of Obuassi (on the railway) is the headquarters station of the district, as it also is the centre, in Ashanti, of the mining industry.

11. Captain Soden and Major Davidson-Houston were consecutively in charge of the district until the arrival, in June last, of Captain Armitage, D.S.O., who has since remained in control.

12. As it will be the object in this Report to deal with Ashanti as a whole (in order to avoid wearisome repetition), matters affecting the districts, such as crime, trade, &c., will be found classified under their respective headings.

II.—POLITICAL.

1. For a clear comprehension of the political situation in Ashanti it will be necessary to refer briefly to the ancient organisation of the people. From time immemorial the various tribes forming the Ashanti nation belonged, or owed allegiance, to one of six great clans or sub-divisions, known as:—

Korentin—Part of main body.
Akomu—Part of main body.
Adentin—Advance guard.
Chidom—Rear guard.
Jasi—Royal bodyguard.
Owiku—Royal family.

2. Originally conceived for warfare—as may be gathered from the peculiar nomenclature of the clans—the organization gradually developed into the main sociological fabric of the Ashantis, and all other institutions became subservient to this sub-division. The Heads of the Clans, or principal "stool holders," together with a few sub-chiefs holding hereditary rights, formed the "King's Council," from which the executive was chosen by the Sovereign. The power of the Chiefs forming the "King's Council" was excessive, and the King himself—unless of exceptional personality—was dependent on their will. They, in fact, ruled the destinies of the nation.

3. Owing to the cruelty and tyranny of these overlords (who all lived in Kumasi) several of the outlying tribes rebelled, and, when defeated, sought refuge in the Gold Coast Colony or adjoining territories. It was not, therefore, a difficult matter for the British Government to break up this organization after the expedition of 1896, when the last of the Ashanti Kings —Prempeh—was deported.

4. All the outlying tribes were declared independent of the Kumasi yoke, and each tribe was given an overlord of its own. This disruption, as may well be supposed, was not accepted by the Kumasi Chiefs without protest, and, aided by the conservative and superstitious nature of the Ashantis, they succeeded in working up the people to the point of armed aggression against the Government in the year 1900.

5. Since then the relations between governing and governed have steadily improved, and nothing in the shape of overt acts against the paramount power can be recorded for five years past.

6. During 1905 several local disputes occurred, but these were invariably due to misunderstandings between Chiefs and their subjects, or between neighbouring Chiefs. Since land has become enhanced in value, owing to the mining and rubber industries, boundary disputes are a perennial source of strife between tribes, but by far the most dangerous disturbances to the peace of the community are caused by the ill-treatment of subjects by their Chiefs. The only movement approaching a conspiracy against lawful authority was a more or less concerted determination on the part of several tribes in and adjoining Kumasi to rid themselves of Chiefs placed on tribal "stools," with the approval and, may be, connivance of, the Government, after the last rising in 1900. In order to ingratiate themselves with the Government, several of the Ashantis, after their surrender, nominated for these stool candidates who were well-known for their loyalty to the Government and who, in most instances, were aliens to the tribes they were called upon to rule. It is natural to suppose that, sooner or later, the people would wish to revert to the tribe's own particular ancestral line of Chiefs, and this movement began

to take effect towards the end of 1904, and continued throughout 1905. It must be confessed, however, that in nearly every case the people had suffered hardship, injustice, and ill-treatment from their alien rulers, who, not restrained by consanguinity, took the opportunity to oppress their subjects, generally by imposing exorbitant fines, either from motives of avarice or revenge.

7. The principal dissensions between Chiefs and subjects occurred at:—

—	Result.
Nsuta (Central District)	Chief destooled.
Jemasi „	„ „
Jansu (Kumasi)	„ abdicated.
Aguna	„ upheld.
Ejisu	„ „
Abodom (Southern District)	„ abdicated, tribe placed under the overlordship of Bekwai.

8. Innumerable boundary disputes were settled during 1905, either by the Commissioners or by the Chief Commissioner, the principal being the:—

Central District	Efiduasi-Asokori Boundary. Petriansa-Konongo Boundary. Obogu-Bompata Boundary.
Southern District	Mansu Nkwanta-Kumasi Boundary.
North Western District ...	Wam-Ahafo Boundary. Wenchi-Techiman Boundary.
North Eastern District ...	Droma-Fakosi Boundary.

9. Generally speaking, the attitude of the Ashantis towards their rulers is one of increasing friendliness; more faith is placed in their administrators, and suspicion of the "white man's" ulterior motives is speedily losing ground.

III.—JUDICIAL.

1. The only judicial officers of the Civil Courts in Ashanti are the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioners, the Cantonment Magistrate at Kumasi, and one or two military officers at out-stations, who are granted a limited jurisdiction within a radius of two miles from their respective stations.

2. No appeals lie in criminal matters. In civil matters an appeal lies from the Commissioner (or officer at an out-station) to the Chief Commissioner, and—by leave of the Governor in writing—from the Chief Commissioner to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

Criminal Cases.

3. Thirty-two criminal cases were heard in the Chief Commissioner's Court; eight accused were discharged, and 24 convicted to various terms of imprisonment.

4. In the Cantonment Magistrate's Court at Kumasi 1,077 cases were heard; 758 offenders were convicted, 244 dismissed, 56 not proceeded with, and 19 committed for trial.

5. Of 60 cases heard by the Commissioner of the North Western District, 46 were convicted, 12 dismissed, and two committed for trial.

In the North Eastern District, 50 cases were tried, 35 convicted, 15 dismissed, and none committed for trial.

In the Southern District, 972 cases were tried, 792 convicted, 121 dismissed, 59 withdrawn.

Total for Ashanti—2,191 cases; 1,676 convictions, 400 dismissals, 115 withdrawals.

Civil Cases.

6. Heard by Chief Commissioner, 32; Cantonment Magistrate, 668; Commissioner (North Eastern District), 7; Commissioner (Southern District), 276—total, 983.

7. The number of civil cases heard in the North Western District was not included in the yearly report from that district, and cannot, unfortunately, be stated here, but the total attained was not high.

8. The following statement shows the number of civil and criminal cases heard in Ashanti during the year:—

—	Civil Cases.	Criminal Cases.	Total.
Chief Commissioner's Court	32	32	64
Cantonment Magistrate's Court	668	1,077	1,745
Commissioner's Court, North Western District	—	60	60
Commissioner's Court, North Eastern District	7	50	57
Commissioner's Court, Southern District ...	276	972	1,248
	983	2,191	3,174

as against the following totals for 1904:—

Criminal Cases	1,553
Civil Cases	808
Total	2,361

9. The above figures do not include innumerable appeals heard by the Chief Commissioner and Commissioners from the decision of Native Chiefs. These are purposely treated in an executive manner as much as possible.

10. There is no doubt that the Ashantis are fast overcoming their reluctance to complain to the "white man," and the marked preference they now evince for our Courts points to the fact that they have learnt to rely on the impartial treatment awarded therein.

11. The Concessions Court held seven sittings, at which two certificates of validity were granted.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

1. The following is a list of Ordinances enacted expressly for Ashanti during 1905:—

The Ashanti Special Constables Ordinance, 1905.

The Ashanti Railway (Amendment) Ordinance, 1905.

The River Volta Regulation (Ashanti) Ordinance, 1905.

The Ashanti Railway Assimilation Ordinance, 1905.

The Ashanti Administration (Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1905.

and five more were rendered applicable to Ashanti, viz.:—

The Railway Ordinance, 1898 (No. 7 of 1898).

The Savings Bank Ordinance, 1887 (No. 15 of 1905).

The Wine and Beer Licence Ordinance, 1904 (No. 9 of 1904).

The Fires and Occurrences Inquiry Ordinance 1899 (No. 7 of 1899).

The Mining Rights Regulations Ordinance, 1905 (No. 8 of 1905).

2. Rules under section 27 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, were issued by the Chief Commissioner, with

the approval of the Governor, concerning the following subjects:—

Rules with respect to—

The boundaries of Kumasi and Oboase.
Dogs,
The erection of buildings in the town of Kumasi,
Auctioneers,
Caravan tolls,
Native buildings set aside as rest houses in Ashanti.

V.—MILITARY.

1. The strength of the West African Frontier Force Station in Ashanti during 1905 was as follows:—

Central District.	
Kumasi	771
Mampon	49
North Eastern District.	
Atebubu	20
Nkoranza	147
Odumase	91
Sikassiko (including picquets)	32
Total	1,110

The above figures exclude European officers and non-commissioned officers, who numbered 49. Four or five of these are quartered in the Colony.

2. A detachment of one officer and 129 non-commissioned officers and men, formerly stationed at Kwissa, in the Southern District, was withdrawn in the month of May, and no troops are now quartered in that district.

3. The relations between the soldiery and the people leave much to be desired. In a country where power is synonymous with abuse, it is practically impossible to prevent petty roadside thieving and general imposition, and it is only by constant vigilance and repression that these misdeeds can be kept within bounds. I hasten to add that the military authorities do all in their power to suppress the evil.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel Tidswell, who was appointed to command the battalion in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkinson, arrived at the beginning of March, but only remained until October, when he proceeded on leave of absence and gave up command of the regiment.

VI.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1905 amounted to £17,532, against £18,964 2*s.* 11*d.* in 1904.

2. The decrease is due to the fact that no "royalties" were received during 1905 from the mines, while a sum of £5,000 was credited under that head in 1904. This can be explained by the permission granted by the home Government to the only gold-producing company in Ashanti in 1904 (the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation) to defer payment of percentages due. In the ordinary course of events "royalty" on the 1904 output would have been credited to 1905 revenue.

3. Setting this last item aside, the revenue for 1905 shows an increase of £3,567 17*s.* 1*d.* over that of the previous year (£17,532 against £13,964 2*s.* 11*d.*), and as no measures were introduced with a view to the augmentation of revenue, the result can be deemed satisfactory.

4. The items of revenue were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Caravan taxes	7,361	12	9
Court fees, &c.	881	1	0
Slaughter-house fees	692	6	1
Sale of provisions	363	5	7
Hunting licences		10	0
Ferry dues	815	11	3
Sale of stamps, &c.	2,355	4	9
Prospecting and mining licenses ...	10	0	0
Liquor licenses	2,746	0	0
Dog licenses	24	5	0
Sale of unserviceable stores	12	7	1
Rents from Government lands	1,088	10	5
Miscellaneous	276	5	1
Contribution from Ashanti Goldfields Corporation	905	1	0
	£17,532	0	0

5. A comparative statement (marked A.) will be found attached, showing items of revenue collected in 1904 and 1905:—

Increases appear under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Caravan tolls	1,823	13	6
2. Slaughter-house fees	78	14	7
3. Sale of provisions	128	2	2
4. Sale of stamps, &c.	947	18	1
5. Dog licenses	19	7	6
6. Rent from Government lands ...	756	15	1
7. Contribution from Ashanti Goldfields Corporation	905	1	0
	£4,659	11	11

The increases on items 1, 2, and 4 are due to normal development.

Increases on items 3, 5, and 6 were abnormal, owing to an extra quantity of "reserve stores" being sold off, dog rules being enforced, and an unusually large number of leases, for Government plots, being issued.

Item 7 represents the Corporation's contribution towards the sanitary work and general development of Obuassi township.

6. Decreases are shown under:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Court fines, &c.	134	7	6
2. Hunting licenses	6	0	0
3. Ferry dues	95	14	5
4. Prospecting and mining licenses	140	0	0
5. Liquor licenses	120	13	6
6. Royalties	5,000	0	0
7. Sale of unserviceable stores ...	488	14	6
8. Miscellaneous	76	4	11
9. Dredging licenses	30	0	0
	£6,091	14	10

None of the above items call for special comment with the exception of No. 6, which has already been referred to, and No. 7, the decrease on which can be explained by the fact that there were next to no unserviceable stores sold off during the year.

EXPENDITURE.

7. The expenditure during the year amounted to £91,753 8*s.* 7*d.*, inclusive of the whole cost of the 1st Battalion of the Gold Coast Regiment, against £94,180 8*s.* 3*d.* in 1904, or a decrease of £2,426 19*s.* 8*d.*

8. The comparative statement attached (B.) gives details of expenditure.

Increased expenditure was incurred under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Treasury	220	12	11
2. Post and telegraphs	445	17	6
3. Post & telegraphs (extraordinary)	869	19	11
4. Public works	71	19	5
5. Public works (extraordinary) ...	574	6	1
6. Sanitary		11	0
7. W. A. F. F.	162	12	5
8. Police	396	12	2
9. Prisons	188	6	9
	£2,930	18	2

Increases on items 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9 were due to reorganization of the Departments concerned. On item 3, to telegraph extension, and on item 5, to Government buildings in Kumasi.

Items 6 and 7 need no comment.

9. Decreases appear under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Ashanti	17	14	3
2. Transport Office	187	5	7
3 Transport	5,073	13	3
4. Medical	79	4	9
	£5,357	17	10

The decreases under items 1, 2, and 4 were due to change of personnel in the Departments concerned, and on item 3 to the re-allotment of the Transport Vote, whereby Ashanti was only debited with the carriers actually employed on Ashanti transport.

10. The Treasury Department was in charge of Senior Assistant Treasurer Eliot until the month of July. He was then relieved by Assistant Treasurer Wheatly, who, in his turn, handed over to Mr. Thompson on November the 7th.

VII.—MEDICAL.

1. The medical staff of Ashanti consists of six medical officers, two of whom (including the Senior Medical Officer) are stationed at Kumasi, the remaining four being quartered at Mampon, Nkoranza, Odumase, and Obuassi.

2. Dr. Tweedy had charge of the Department until May, when Dr. Rutherford assumed the duties of Senior Medical Officer.

3. The average European population in Ashanti for 1905 was 53 officials and 206 non-officials. Five deaths occurred during the year, one official and four non-official, representing a European death rate of 1·9 per centum.

Ten officials and 22 non-officials were invalided, or 12·3 per cent. of the total population.

4. The general health of the Europeans, when compared with the Coast towns, can be said to have been good, except at isolated stations, such as Odumase and Sikassiko.

5. Particular attention was paid to sanitation at all the headquarters stations. Out-station hospitals were repaired, and a liberal supply of drugs distributed.

6. The health of the native population was reported as "fairly good." No small-pox occurred in or near Kumasi, and the mortality, as far as can be ascertained, was small.

7. The native hospital admitted 815 in-patients during the year, as against 747 in 1904. Deaths numbered 25. Among out-patients, 6,242 new cases were attended to, as against 6,003 in 1904. Besides the above, 11,732 old cases were also attended to; total out-patient cases, 17,974.

8. All the troops in Kumasi, together with their wives and families, were vaccinated during the year; total cases, 1,361.

9. A new native hospital and out-buildings were completed by the end of the year, on an excellent site, close to the Bantama road.

10. All pit latrines were abolished, and 28 new native buildings erected for the reception of pans. These huts will gradually be replaced by permanent brick and concrete buildings.

11. The water supply, both for Europeans and natives, was good and plentiful. Pumps, which are kept under lock and key except at stated intervals, were fitted on No. 1 and No. 2 springs, while a cement reservoir was added to No. 3. The natives own numberless private wells, and can command an ample supply, except, perhaps, at the end of the dry season, when economy in consumption must be exercised.

VIII.—TRANSPORT.

1. The Transport Department in Ashanti consists of:—

1 Assistant Transport Officer.
1 3rd Grade Clerk,
1 5th Grade Clerk,
1 Overseer,
17 Headmen, and
408 Carriers.

During the year 3,073 loads were despatched to the Northern Territories; 1,765 loads were despatched to the out-stations in Ashanti; and 4,881 loads were distributed in Kumasi.

The above figures include the movements of officers and troops.

2. The Department is well organized, and the gangs are kept constantly employed.

IX.—POLICE.

1. The Police Force in Ashanti is, as yet, limited to the Southern and Central, or what may be termed the more advanced districts.

2. A European Assistant Commissioner of Police was appointed to Kumasi in July last, from whence he controls the whole force, which on the 31st December consisted of:—

In Kumasi—1 Superintendent,
1 Sergeant,
1 Corporal, and
17 Constables.
—
20
—

In Obuassi—1 Superintendent,
1 Sergeant,
1 Corporal, and
19 Constables.
—
22
—

3. In Kumasi the police arrested 1,013 persons during the year, 758 of whom were convicted, 236 discharged, and 19 committed for trial.

At Obuassi 972 arrests were made, which resulted in 792 convictions, 121 discharges, and 59 withdrawals.

4. The Commissioner of the Southern District reports that "the Civil Police have done excellent work during the year," and I am glad to be able to corroborate the above statement as far as the Central District is concerned.

5. Besides the members of the ordinary force, there are 11 railway police and eight mines police quartered in Ashanti. As the names imply, these men are exclusively employed to safeguard the interests of the railway and the mines.

X.—PRISONS.

1. With the exception of the Obuassi Gaol, only one prison can be said to exist in Ashanti. Prisoners convicted at the out-stations (with the exception of those at Obuassi) are sent to Kumasi to undergo their sentences.

Kumasi Gaol.

2. This gaol is under the direct control of the Cantonment Magistrate. The staff consists of 1 keeper of prison, 6 2nd class warders, and 3 temporary warders.

The male prison can be said to be in a satisfactory condition, and when a few additional buildings have been added, such as a prison infirmary and solitary cells, will be complete.

3. The female prison is as yet a primitive structure of swish, surrounded by a mud wall. This prison is now about to be rebuilt, and the alterations will appear in next year's report.

Health.

4. The total number of male prisoners for the year was 601, against 699 in 1904, with a daily average of 79, made up as follows:—

Convicted prisoners	474
Debtors	55
On remand	72
	601

The general health was good; 705 cases reported sick, mostly ulcers on feet when entering prison. Only one death occurred.

There were only 24 convicted female prisoners.

DISCIPLINE.

5. Prison discipline was, on the whole, satisfactory. Offences numbered 38 for the year, made up as follows:—

Insubordination	12
Refusing to and idle at work	12
Theft	6
Fighting	3
Assault	2
In possession of articles	2
Drunkenness	1
	38

No offences against discipline occurred among the female prisoners.

Three escapes (all males) were recorded during the year.

The food is good and sufficient.

The prisoners were mainly engaged on sanitary work, road construction, water carrying, and general clearing.

OBUASSI GAOL.

6. This prison is a temporary structure, in which prisoners undergoing sentences of six months and under are confined. The staff consists of one 1st Class Warder (Acting Gaoler), three 2nd Class Warders, and five Temporary Warders.

The Commissioner reports that "The prison is still represented by the corrugated iron shed, taken over by me from the Chief Resident Engineer of the construction, in exchange for prison labour supplied, as the Corporation has not fulfilled its promise to build a brick prison. This work was actually started, but before I returned to Obuassi the Corporation brick-yard was closed, and nothing has since been done to the building. The present prison has been enlarged, and, in addition to the single large sleeping room, has rooms for untried prisoners and debtors, as well as a store-room. Although prison discipline is, under present conditions, difficult to maintain, from the point of view of health nothing could be desired. A monthly average of 70 convicted and untried prisoners occupied the gaol in 1905; ten prisoners escaped, of whom five were re-arrested. Prisoners' food is supplied by contract, at the rate of 3*d*. per diem per prisoner. The prisoners have been engaged during the year mainly in sanitary work and road construction and cleaning."

XI.—CRIME.

1. Owing to the lack of statistics for former years, it is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy whether crime is on the increase or the reverse.

2. Taking into consideration the large extraneous population attracted to Ashanti by the mining industry and by commerce, it is more than probable that the percentage of crime has increased. Even so, however, it cannot be said to be excessive. Taking the population of Ashanti at 500,000, the total number of convictions means one conviction for every 292 people.

3. Of the 1,676 convictions recorded under Head III. minor offences, such as "public nuisances" and "breaches of the peace," accounted for the largest percentages; then come 215 cases of larceny, or 12·8 per cent., followed by 188 cases of assault, or 11·2 per cent. Among the more serious cases, stealing numbered 5; causing bodily harm, 4. There was only one case of murder, and three of slave dealing. A tabulated statement is attached (C.), showing the classification of offences.

4. It must not be supposed, however, that the above figures represent the whole amount of crime. Many offences are committed by natives of the country that are never reported to the police—either from motives of interest or fear—but I am satisfied that, although some minor offences may remain hidden from the executive, few, if any, serious crimes remain undiscovered.

XII.—PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

1. There are three Preventive Service Stations in Ashanti, viz., Kratchi, Yambossu and Akiossu. These are all on the banks of the Volta River, the boundary between Ashanti and the German Colony of Togoland, and are in charge of a European officer, who receives his orders direct from the Comptroller of Customs at Accra.

2. Messrs. Harragin, Berkeley, and Ross were the officers in charge of these stations during the year.

3. As the name implies, the main object of these stations is to prevent the smuggling of merchandise from German into British territory, more particularly gunpowder and spirits.

4. Kratchi is the main depôt of the Hinterland Salt Supply; from thence it is transported across the river into German territory, or is forwarded up to the Northern Territories.

5. An amount of £815 11*s.* 3*d.* was collected at Kratchi during the year as ferry dues.

XIII.—POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

1. Post Offices are established at Kumasi and Obuassi.

2. Mails are received and despatched from and to the Coast three times a week; from and to the Northern Territories twice a week; and once a week from and to Odumase and Nkoranza.

3. The following statement shows the work done by the Department:—

LETTERS, &c. dealt with at the Post Offices in Ashanti during the year 1905.

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and post cards	82,752	76,740	159,492
Book packets and newspapers	1,212	29,490	30,702
Registered articles	8,736	5,520	14,256
Parcel post parcels	668	4,252	4,920
Total	93,368	116,002	209,370

4. The Post Office receipts during the year were:—Kumasi, £10,155 18*s.* 2*d.*; Obuassi, £11,368 9*s.* 10*d.*; or a total of £21,524 8*s.* 0*d.*

5. A Post Office Savings Bank was established in Kumasi and Oboase in the month of November.

At the end of the year eight depositors at Obuassi had placed a total of £97 3*s.* 0*d.* in the bank.

6. Telegraph stations are established at Kumasi, Obuassi, Kwissa, Nkoranza, and Atebubu.

7. The line was extended from Atebubu to Yeji (Northern Territories), a distance of about 40 miles, during the year; 34,652 messages were received at and sent from Kumasi, and 14,736 from and to Obuassi.

8. The staff of the department consists of two postmasters and nine clerks. Mr. Jackson, in charge of the Kumasi Post Office, was the Senior Officer in Ashanti.

XIV.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

Trade Imports.

1. The principal articles of import are:—

Cotton goods.
Hardware, Enamelware.
Brassware.
Matches and Knives.
Iron Pots, Lamps.
Brass and Copper Rods, &c.
Spirit and Provisions.
Salt.
Haberdashery and Clothing.

2. I have endeavoured, but so far unsuccessfully, to obtain returns of the tonnage imported into Ashanti by the railway during 1905—to which must be added all the goods imported on men's heads—roughly, 20 per cent. of the railway tonnage. Certain it is that there was an appreciable increase of imports last year over 1904.

Exports.

3. Placed in order of value, the exports of Ashanti are:—Rubber, kola, cocoa, and gum copal.

There have hitherto been no means of ascertaining what the exports amounted to, but now that caravan tax stations have been established round the frontier, I trust that an accurate estimate will be obtained in future.

4. Trade generally showed an increase during the year both in imports and exports, and can, therefore, be deemed satisfactory. Two new mercantile firms opened in Kumasi during the year, and the turnover of the existing firms increased encouragingly.

North Eastern District.

5. A large and important market has developed at Ejura, in the North Eastern District. Up-country traders can bring live stock down as far as Ejura with comparative immunity from disease for their herds, but south of that village is found that scourge the "tsetse" fly, and they do not care to risk the loss by coming further south when people are found to offer them their wares in exchange at Ejura. The result is that the price of live stock generally, and cattle in particular, is considerably cheaper there than at Kumasi, although the distance is under 60 miles.

North Western District.

6. The export trade of the North Western District into French territory was diverted from the Sikassiko-Bontuku road to other roads leading north, owing to the heavy duties imposed by the French on the 1st of August.

The trade reaches French territory, nevertheless, but is diverted northwards.

Southern District.

7. The Commissioner reports:—"In the Southern District trade is, in the main, in the hands of native traders, some of whom represent coast firms. The majority, however, buy goods from the coast stores, and retail them in the mining villages and elsewhere in the district. A number of Syrian traders have lately established themselves in the mining villages.

"Large quantities of trade goods are carried up by Ashantis on their return from coast towns, where they have disposed of their rubber, but these are less for trade purposes than for family use.

"The Ashanti Goldfields Corporation has handed over its trading rights to the Ashanti-Obuassi Trading Company, Limited, which has stores at Obuassi, Ayeinm, and Sansu, and has lately opened at Akrokerri. Owing to suspension of mining work at Ayeinm, the closing down of the mill at Sansu, and of a number of stamps at Obuassi, trade has not been so good as in previous years, while profits on goods brought up from the coast have been reduced to almost vanishing point, due to the keen competition among native traders."

8. It is estimated that the value of specie brought into Ashanti during 1905 was £50,000, exclusive of that used by the Government—another £30,000—and the amount sent down to the coast, £30,000.

The above figures do not include drafts or bills of exchange.

Every endeavour has been made to encourage the copper currency, and the natives will no doubt in time overcome their prejudice to these coins.

Agriculture.

1. Everything points to the fact that the Ashanti will, if encouraged, turn his attention to the cultivation of the soil for economic purposes. Numerous new cocoa plantations were started during the year, mainly in the southern and eastern parts of Ashanti, and it is to be hoped that the high prices obtained in Kumasi will prove an incentive to the further cultivation of the plant.

2. The natives have not yet learnt to plant out young rubber or kola trees, but every endeavour has been made to induce

them to do so. The number of kola trees in bearing increases automatically every year, and the young trees are watched over and well cared for by their owners, but systematic cultivation is desirable.

3. The area of land under cultivation with farm produce is increasing, and food is becoming more plentiful in consequence.

4. Both tobacco and rice (hill) are grown in Jaman territory, but so far only for local consumption. Cotton has not yet been attempted on any large scale in Ashanti, although efforts have been made to distribute seeds.

5. When the projected Botanical Station is established in Kumasi a strong endeavour will be made to augment the cultivation and increase the production of the various agricultural commodities of Ashanti.

XV.—RAILWAY.

1. The Ashanti section of the Gold Coast Government Railway extends from the River Ofin to Kumasi, a distance of 66½ miles, 60 of which are in the Southern District.

The section is in charge of an Assistant Engineer, who resides at Obuassi.

2. Trains run daily from Sekondi to Obuassi, and from Sekondi through to Kumasi once a week. Trains also run from and to Obuassi and Kumasi twice a week, and a through train from Kumasi to Sekondi once a week. There are therefore six arrivals and six departures a week, between Obuassi and Sekondi, and three arrivals and three departures a week between Kumasi and the coast.

3. With laudable generosity, the Ashanti owners of the lands on which the stations stand conveyed their rights to the Government free of charge. Plans of all the station sites have been drawn up and signed.

XVI.—MINES.

1. Five companies in Ashanti declared an output of gold during the year, all of which are in the Southern District:—

—	Ozs. recovered.	Value.
		£
Akrokerri Mines, Ltd.	20,663·115	86,850
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd. ...	39,607·220	136,821
Ashanti Sansu Mines, Ltd.	1,527·600	5,390
Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary, Ltd. ...	3,469·540	13,761
Ofin River Gold Estates, Ltd.	2,992·000	11,968
Ozs.	68,259·475	254,790
As against	58,696·7	202,675 in 1904

2. The above mines give employment to, approximately, 250 Europeans and 3,000 natives.

3. The Commissioner, Southern District, reports that:—"Taken as a whole, the supply of native labour has been good throughout the year, notwithstanding that in some cases wages have been reduced. The good health enjoyed by the European employés on these mines is attributable in a great measure to the more comfortable and healthily-situated quarters which have recently been erected for them. Large villages have sprung up in connection with the mining industry at Obuassi, Ayeinm, Sansu and Akrokerri. The villages of Ayeinm and Sansu are periodically inspected. On March 7th a disastrous fire, in which eleven natives lost their lives, occurred at Akrokerri. A bush fire, helped by a high wind, jumped the railway line, and in a few minutes totally destroyed the native village, the fire spreading with such rapidity that the inhabitants had no time to save any of their property. The village has been rebuilt on improved lines, with wide streets between the houses, and, as at Obuassi, corrugated iron or shingle roofs are taking the place of thatch."

4. The Obenemasi Mine, in the Central District, was engaged on development work throughout the year.

5. The amount of £1,573 was paid into the Treasury by holders of concessions in Ashanti, as rent on behalf of the native lessors.

6. A Mines Volunteer Corps, recruited entirely from European employés, was formed during the year, the establishment of which on the 31st December was:—

Obuassi	50
Akrokerri	30

Captain Armitage, D.S.O., Commissioner of the Southern District, was appointed to command the Ashanti sections of the Corps.

The defence of mine property in cases of emergency is the commendable object of this movement.

XVII.—EDUCATION.

1. No Government Schools have, as yet, been established in Ashanti, and the small amount of educational work done so far is carried out solely by the Basel and Wesleyan Missions.

2. The Basel Mission numbers 10 schools, with a pupil attendance of 207. The schools are distributed as follows:—

Central District	7
North Western District	2
North Eastern District	1
	10

An increase of three schools and 32 pupils on last year.

3. The Wesleyan Mission counts 7 schools, with an average public attendance of 219:—

Central District	2
Southern District	4
North Western District	1
	7

This represents the same number of schools as in 1904, but an increased attendance of 22.

The above schools are all of the infant or elementary standard.

4. A few of the Chiefs in the North Western and North Eastern Districts are willing and even anxious that their children should acquire knowledge at these schools, but it cannot be denied that the progress made among the Ashantis, from an educational point of view, has been insignificant.

5. This is not altogether due to a contempt for learning on the part of the Ashantis. It can greatly be ascribed to suspicion of the Christianizing tendencies of these denominational schools. Native Christian converts cut themselves so completely adrift from the rest of the community that the Chiefs are afraid to encourage a movement that experience tells them will, in course of time, undermine their power.

6. Until undenominational Government schools are established throughout the country little educational progress need be looked for.

XVIII.—RELIGION.

1. The creed of the Ashantis is a combination of ancestor worship and idolatry, or, as it is more generally known, "fetichism."

The occupant of a "stool" will hold converse with the shades of the departed occupants, whose duty it is to watch over the welfare of the tribe. This lends a cohesive character to tribes and clans, of unusual strength, against which both Christian and Mohamedan missionaries have made but little headway.

2. The Basel Mission now numbers 229 members, 105 of which are children. These figures show an increase of 55 on last year.

I regret to have to record the death, in October last, of the Reverend Mr. Perregaux, who had been in charge of this Mission since Mr. Ramseyer's departure in 1904. He has been succeeded by the Reverend Mr. Bauer, whose native staff consists of one minister, 1 missionary, 10 catechists and one teacher.

3. The Wesleyan Mission statistics for 1905 show a membership of 351, made up as follows:—Full members, 176; on trial, 40; catechumens, 135; total, 351—an increase of 56 on 1904.

The Reverend Mr. Riggall, who is in charge of this Mission, reports as follows:—"The new chapel was completed at Kumasi, and the European mission house rebuilt and occupied. At Fomena also the King of Adansi has been building us a chapel. One or two stations have suffered from the death of the Catechist, and the difficulty in finding suitable ones to take the place. However, the work is gradually increasing, and the Ashantis are beginning to show some interest in the work, and several in the various stations are under instruction to be received into membership."

XIX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

1. The following is a list of new works completed during 1905:—

Powder magazine—Kumasi.
Native hospital and out-buildings—Kumasi.
Latrine for sergeants' quarters—Kumasi.
Kitchen for transport quarters—Kumasi.
Market sheds—Kumasi.
Re-roofing soldiers' lines—Kumasi.
Re-roofing prison cells—Kumasi.
Slaughter-house—Kumasi.
Enclosing European water supply—Kumasi.
Repairs of soldiers' lines (Block 2)—Kumasi.
Windows to orderly room and quarters—Kumasi.
Arm racks for Kumasi and out-stations.

These works were done under the supervision of a foreman of works, who was the sole representative of the Public Works Department in Ashanti.

2. With the exception of the buildings taken over by the Government at Obuassi, no permanent buildings have as yet been erected at the out-stations, pending the final settlement of the headquarters localities.

3. A good and useful brick is made at Kumasi on behalf of the Department, by contract labour; timber is plentiful in the environs of the town, and shingle "splitting," for roofing, is a recognized industry. This style of roof is generally adopted for Government buildings.

4. The difficulty invariably encountered in new countries—the lack of skilled labour—is gradually being overcome as competition increases and more contractors appear on the scene. The Foreman of Works has been able to find persons willing to undertake, by contract, all ordinary town works, such as street draining, well sinking, &c., and these people will, I trust, form the nucleus of an ample and efficient artizan class. Unskilled labour is plentiful, and the high wages earned (from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day) are the cause of attraction to a large vagrant population.

The total expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary was £1,683 17*s.* 7*d.*

XX.—KUMASI TOWN.

1. From the foregoing list of works, it will be gathered that the town of Kumasi is in a state of development. As a matter of fact, the above list gives but a poor idea of the surprisingly rapid progress made by the town.

2. Building operations in all quarters of the town have been the rule throughout the year, and it is satisfactory to note that the majority of the new buildings (European in style, with either iron or shingle roofs) were erected and are owned by the leading Ashanti Chiefs. These buildings are in most cases leased to mercantile firms, at fair prices, so that the building craze in Kumasi has had the double advantage of securing fixed rentals for the Chiefs and of augmenting their interest in the well-being of the town.

3. All the land within the town limits belongs to the Government, and is leased out at the rate of from £24 to £4 per 10,000 square feet, according to locality. The Ashanti Chiefs are allowed plots at nominal rentals, and extra land at reduced rates.

4. Leases issued by the Government prior to 1905 amounted to 33; at the end of that year they reached 253—a significant testimony to the rapid development of the town. The increase of revenue during the year derived from ground-rent amounted to £1,083.

5. The European firms now number 11, two of which opened during the year.

6. The main improvements to the town during the year were:—

Establishment of a new market.

A new slaughter-house.

The demolition and repartition of the Hausa "Zongo" (settlement). It has been divided up into plots, which are leased out to settlers at from £4 to £1 per annum, according to size. Over 150 plots were already in occupation at the end of the year.

Commencement of cemented street drains and a new system of sanitation whereby all cesspools have been abolished.

7. As is invariably the case when a census is based on guesswork, the population of Kumasi has been hitherto greatly overestimated.

For the first time the native inhabitants of the town, whether Ashantis or aliens, have been counted, and I append a return (D)

giving details of the population, which instead of 10,000 or 11,000 persons, as stated in the annual report for 1904, barely reaches 6,000.

To the above figures, however, must be added a large "floating population," which varies with the seasons of the year, in accordance with the demands of commerce.

8. Speaking generally, the rapid growth and the increasing importance of Kumasi as a trade centre is one of the most encouraging features of the political situation in Ashanti.

XXI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The Acting Governor, Major Bryan, visited Kumasi in the month of August.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir John P. Rodger, K.C.M.G., passed through Ashanti on his way up to the Northern Territories in December, and remained three days in Kumasi.

2. Captain Haslewood was, I regret to say, invalided out of the Service, and Captain Soden appointed Travelling Commissioner in his stead.

3. The latter was detailed in the month of November to delimitate the Ashanti-Sefwi boundary in conjunction with Captain Breckenridge, District Commissioner, Sefwi.

4. Several rest houses were erected by the Chiefs for the convenience of travellers.

5. The meteorological observations for the year were as follows:—

—	Average Maximum.	Average Minimum.	Rainfall.
Kumasi	90°	60°	45·50 inches.
Obuassi	85°	66°	54·77 „

APPENDICES.

RETURN A.

Comparative Statement of REVENUE collected in ASHANTI during the years 1904 and 1905.

Head of Revenue.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Caravan Taxes	5,537 19 3	7,361 12 9	1,823 13 6	—
Court Fines, &c.	1,015 8 6	881 1 0	—	134 7 6
Slaughter House Fees, &c.	613 11 6	692 6 1	78 14 7	—
Sale of Provisions	235 3 5	363 5 7	128 2 2	—
Hunting Licenses	6 10 0	0 10 0	—	6 0 0
Ferry Dues	911 5 8	815 11 3	—	95 14 5
Sale of Stamp[illegible]t Cards, &c.	1,407 6 8	2,355 4 9	947 18 1	—
Prospecting and Mining Licenses ..	150 0 0	10 0 0	—	140 0 0
Liquor Licenses	2,866 13 6	2,746 0 0	—	120 13 6
Dog Licenses	4 17 6	24 5 0	19 7 6	—
Royalties	5,000 0 0	—	—	5,000 0 0
Sale of Unserviceable Stores	501 1 7	12 7 1	—	488 14 6
Rents from Government Lands.. ..	331 15 4	1,088 10 5	756 15 1	—
Miscellaneous..	352 10 0	276 5 1	—	76 4 11
Dredging Licenses	30 0 0	—	—	30 0 0
Contributions from Ashanti Goldfields Corporation.	—	905 1 0	905 1 0	—
Total	18,964 2 11	17,532 0 0	4,659 11 11	6,091 14 10

RETURN B.

Comparative Statement of EXPENDITURE in ASHANTI during the years 1904 and 1905.

Head of Expenditure.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ashanti	9,686 19 3	9,669 5 0	—	17 14 3
Treasury	423 19 9	644 12 8	220 12 11	—
Transport Department	490 12 3	303 6 8	—	187 5 7
Transport	15,682 5 6	10,608 12 3	—	5,073 13 3
Post and Telegraphs	1,986 0 1	2,431 17 7	445 17 6	—
Do. Extraordinary ..	1,238 1 11	2,108 1 10	869 19 11	—
Public Works	166 13 4	238 12 9	71 19 5	—
Do. Extraordinary	1,109 11 6	1,683 17 7	574 6 1	—
Medical	3,739 8 9	3,660 4 0	—	79 4 9
Sanitary	23 0 0	23 11 0	0 11 0	—
W. A. F. Force (1st Battalion)	57,367 8 0	57,530 0 5	162 12 5	—
Police	1,070 18 11	1,467 11 1	396 12 2	—
Prisons	1,195 0 0	1,383 15 9	188 6 9	—
Preventive Services..	—	—	—	—
Total	94,180 8 3	91,753 8 7	2,930 18 2	5,357 17 10

Return C.

Convictions in 1905.

Locality.	Abduction.	Assault.	Assault on police.	Indecent.	Arson.	Breach of the peace.	Burglary.	Carnal knowledge.	Causing harm.	Causing derailment.	Drunkenness.	Drumming without permit.	Embezzlement.	Extortion.	Forgery.	Firearms Ordinance.	Housebreaking.	Larceny.	Manslaughter.	Master and servant.	Murder.	Murder, attempt to.	Obtaining money under false pretences.	Language, abusive.	Language, indecent.	Public nuisance.	Rape.	Receiving stolen property.	Robbery.	Selling spirits.	Slave dealing.	Smuggling.	Stealing.	Wounding.	Wounding cattle.	Unlawful entry by night.	Miscellaneous.
Central District.																																				
Chief Commissioner's Court.	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	5	—	1	1	—
Cant. Magistrate's Court.	—	98	31	2	—	100	4	—	—	—	20	11	—	—	1	2	—	123	—	2	—	—	10	5	—	130	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	7	—	—	215
N.W. District	—	10	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	11
N.E. District	—	3	—	—	—	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Southern District ..	—	74	—	8	—	140	—	—	—	—	12	25	—	—	2	—	—	82	—	—	—	—	9	2	1	237	—	10	—	12	2	—	—	—	—	—	176
Total	—	188	31	10	1	255	4	1	4	1	32	36	—	1	2	2	—	215	1	2	1	1	19	10	1	382	—	14	2	16	3	11	5	7	1	1	402

RETURN D.

Census of Kumasi, 1905.

Number of New Houses, 1905	152
Number of Old Houses.	366
Number of Ashanti men.	1,168
Number of Ashanti women.	1,460
Number of Ashanti children.	1,022
Number of Fanti men.	216
Number of Fanti women.	243
Number of Fanti children.	108
Number of Mohamedan men.	600
Number of Mohamedan women.	480
Number of Mohamedan children.	240
Number of other Tribes: men.	144
Number of other Tribes: women.	162
Number of other Tribes: children.	72
Number of European Civil Officials.	8
Number of European Non-Officials.	17
Number of European dwelling-houses.	15
Number of Houses incomplete.	—
Total Population.	5,940

Kumasi.

T. PAMPLIN GREEN,
Cantonment Magistrate and Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
456	Seychelles	1904
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
458	Straits Settlements	"
459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados	1904–1905
467	Uganda Protectorate	"
468	Somaliland Protectorate	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa Protectorate	"
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands...	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do.	Mineral Survey, 1904–1905.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do. do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar Industry.
36	West Indies	Working of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 523.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 483.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1907.

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DEC. 12.1908
D. of D.

No. 523.

ASHANTI.

The GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Accra,

24th April, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Ashanti Annual Report for the year 1906, and to make the following remarks on entries under various headings:—

POLITICAL.

The only serious disturbance, during the year under review, was that among the Agunas.

JUDICIAL.

The number of criminal cases tried at Coomassie was somewhat large, but the offences charged were not, as a rule, of a very serious description.

REVENUE.

The revenue collected during the year is largely in excess of that collected in 1905; and the full amount estimated (£41,430) would have been realised had there been no deficiency in the item "Royalties," which was originally estimated to produce £15,100.

EXPENDITURE.

The figures given by Mr. Fuller, under this heading, have been reduced from £100,367 14*s.* 10*d.* to £85,125 6*s.* 4*d.*, as it was decided, in the correspondence relating to the extension and improvement of the system of administration in Ashanti, that only three-fourths of the total cost of the Gold Coast Regiment should be charged against Ashanti; the remaining one-fourth, representing the cost of the company stationed in the Colony, being debited to the Colony.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

I can corroborate, from personal observation, what Mr. Fuller has written as to Coomassie becoming more and more the distributing centre for the whole of Ashanti and the Hinterland. All the European firms trading on the coast are now

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represented by agents at Coomassie, and this town has greatly increased in importance and improved in appearance.

The increased exports of rubber and cocoa, as shown by the Customs returns as well as by this report, are very satisfactory.

Mines.

Good progress has been made by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation and the Akrokerri Company, as reported, at greater length, in the Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines.

Education.

What the Chief Commissioner has written on the subject of Mission Schools in Ashanti deserves, and will receive, full consideration. It may not be possible to establish a Government School at Coomassie next year, but such a school should certainly be established in the course of the year 1909.

Religion.

The religious faith known as "Fetichism," which represents the creed of the Ashantis, and of most other West African negroes who have not been converted either to Christianity or Muhammadanism, would be more correctly and scientifically described as "Animism." Its chief characteristic is that it endows with a spirit what are called "inanimate objects" in Europe; and, esoterically, it approaches to Pantheism, of which it may possibly be a degraded form. The Ashanti objections to Muhammadanism, mentioned in this report, are unusual among negro races; and, in the event of a Pan-Islamic rising in West Africa, their existence might be of considerable political importance.

2. The general progress of Ashanti may be considered satisfactory, and much credit for the results obtained is due to Mr. Fuller and his Assistants; especially to Captain Armitage, who acted as Chief Commissioner during Mr. Fuller's absence on leave.

I have, &c.,

John Rodger,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

ASHANTI ANNUAL REPORT, 1906.

I.—ADMINISTRATION.

1. Ashanti is still divided into the four districts mentioned in the Annual Report for 1905, *i.e.*, the North Western, the North Eastern, the Southern, and the Central.

2. The Chief Commissioner proceeded on leave of absence in the month of April, returning on the 13th of October, during which period Captain Armitage, D.S.O., carried on the Administration of the country.

Central District.

3. Most of the important towns in this district—which falls to the care of the Chief Commissioner—were visited during the year, but it was found impossible for him to devote the requisite time and attention to the affairs of the district, owing to the numerous other matters that he is called upon to attend to. Steps have been taken to relieve him of the immediate administration of the district.

North Western District.

4. Mr. Commissioner Fell was in charge of this district for the first six months of 1906, when Captain Denny—kindly lent by the Military Authorities—relieved him and continued in charge until the end of the year.

5. Considerable progress has been made in this district in every way, but more especially in the relations between the Government and the people. As the result of two visits of inspection paid to this district—in February and November—the Chief Commissioner was able to forward laudatory reports on the work achieved.

6. The removal of the headquarters of the district from Odumase to Sunyani—a distance of about two miles—has proved a pronounced success. The ground is higher and the station—built on an eminence—commands an imposing view of the surrounding country. The water is excellent, and the native town at some distance away from the camp. The general health of the European officers quartered in the district has improved in consequence.

7. It was considered unnecessary to retain Sikassiko as a sub-station, and the troops formerly quartered there were recalled in the month of March and added to the Sunyani detachment.

8. Owing to the amount of travelling that the Commissioner of the District has to do—practically 50 per cent. of his time—the strain of control is constant and severe. It is all the more satisfactory to note, therefore, that no breakdown occurred to

dislocate the administrative machinery and check the tide of general improvement that has set in.

North Eastern District.

9. This district has suffered more than any other from a want of continuity of work and personnel. As many as five officers were in charge of the district during the year; Mr. Berkeley, Captain Hobart, Captain Kortright, Lieutenant Tinling, and Captain Bishop, all acting as Commissioners and following each other at more or less short intervals—and while appreciating the tact and ability displayed by the officers concerned, such constant changes must perforce prove disconcerting to the natives, who look up to the individual rather than to a system for guidance—and the result is that this is the least developed district in Ashanti. Measures have been taken, however, to remedy this state of affairs, and a new *régime* came into force on the 1st of January last—an explanation of which will more fittingly form part of the next annual report.

10. The headquarters of the district were moved from Atebubu to Nkoranza in January, 1906, as it was considered all-important that the Commissioner should reside where the troops were stationed; besides which, Nkoranza being the principal town of the tribe of that name, political reasons intervened to counsel the move.

Southern District.

11. This district, which ranks second in political importance, now takes the lead in point of administrative development. This is due to the continuity of policy it has enjoyed, to the personal knowledge gained by the natives of their administrators, and to the size and compactness of the district.

12. Captain Armitage, D.S.O., Commissioner of this district, remained in charge until April, on the 12th of which month Captain Soden assumed control, which he retained until the end of the year.

13. Matters affecting the various districts will be found classified under their respective headings.

II.—POLITICAL.

1. The Annual Report for 1905 contained an account of the peculiar political organisation of the Ashantis, and a repetition thereof would be superfluous, but even at the risk of reiteration, it may be as well to lay stress on the fact that the whole of the people were formerly divided into six clans, and that allegiance was exacted by, and paid to, the head chief of the clan, who resided in Coomassie and formed part of the King's Cabinet.

2. Mainly due to the greed, cruelty, and avarice of these absentee chiefs, the outlying tribes still subject to them in

1896, welcomed the intervention of the British Government and cast off the harsh yoke with avidity. None but their own people living in Coomassie territory now render them service, and the link between the Coomassie Chiefs and those of the outlying districts has been completely severed.

3. Only one or two disturbances deserve special mention and bear political significance. As explained in the 1905 Report, a movement took shape in the Coomassie District to destool all chiefs placed on tribal "stools" with the approval of the Government after the 1900 rising. This movement took full effect in 1905, and the Agunas, who had rebelled against their chief, lost their case and were ordered to return to their homes and continue to bear allegiance to Kwamin Boatchi. A simmering state of unrest continued for several months, until, in the month of May, a recrudescence of the local rebellion occurred and burst forth with all the fury of pent up feelings. With infinite patience tact and consideration the Acting Chief Commissioner, Captain Armitage, D.S.O., conducted the negotiations between the parties and finally gave his decision in September, 1906, by which the chief was again upheld and several ringleaders of the malcontents punished. It is to be hoped that the final stage of the affair has been reached.

4. Minor disturbances of a similar nature occurred at Ejisu, Akropong, and Ahinkuro, these were heard by the Acting Chief Commissioner, between April and June. In each case the chief was upheld against the tyranny of the reactionary element.

5. The chiefs and people of the outlying tribes, generally speaking, were well behaved and gave willing obedience to lawful authority. The Commissioner of the Western District reports as follows:—"The state of the district has been politically satisfactory and there have been no cases of disturbance between the chiefs and the Government. There has occasionally been slight friction between the head chiefs and some of the sub-chiefs, notably between the King of Wam and Chief Kobina Kuni of old Wam, and between the King of Asunafo Ahafo and the Chief of Mim. The King of Berekum was implicated in a very serious case of extortion. This case dragged on for several months and was finally settled by the Chief Commissioner at Berekum, in November; and the King warned that a repetition of such an offence would be attended with very serious consequences for himself. A case which caused some trouble occurred at N'Soatra where certain of the younger members of the town wished to destool the chief for alleged misconduct. This case was also settled by the Chief Commissioner and the chief was upheld. Although, unfortunately, the Wenchi Tekiman boundary has not been completed, I am glad to say no trouble has arisen over it. At the close of the year there were no complaints from any of the divisions."

6. From the Southern District comes the following:—

"The Ashantis of the Southern District have given no trouble during the year. They have marked the year 1906 by their excellent behaviour, absolute obedience, and a desire to help and co-operate with the Government. I think they have further begun to recognise that the Government is the chief guardian of their interests, judging by the way they have sought advice over every little matter, however small, that concerned them, and they have displayed a trusting and friendly spirit towards the Commissioner of their district that is most pleasing to record. Of the conduct of the very large alien population in the Southern District, I have nothing but good to say. They were law-abiding throughout the whole year, and they gave no trouble calculated to cause a moment's anxiety, and taking into consideration the very cosmopolitan nature of all the tribes employed by the mines, there has been a pleasing absence of serious crime."

7. From the foregoing extracts it may be readily concluded that the year was marked by a decided general improvement.

8. Boundary disputes between chiefs are a source of perennial trouble, but these will gradually diminish in number as the affairs of the natives are more intimately dealt with. The principal boundaries settled during the year were:—

Central District—

King of Ejisu *v.* Chief Akwesi Inuama.
Chief Kobina Safo *v.* King of Offinsu.
Kofi Bentuo *v.* Chief Kofi Niakun.
Chief Osei Mampon *v.* Chief Kwatchi Kofi.

Southern District—

Esumeja *v.* Amba Sika.
Dompoase *v.* Akrokerri.

9. The Coomassie Council of Chiefs—inaugurated in August, 1905—held 18 sittings, and proved of genuine assistance to the Chief Commissioner in the administration of the Coomassie District. The Council numbers 18 (exclusive of the Chief Commissioner)—all chiefs who, according to tradition, would have formed the Advisory Board of the late dynasty. Membership implies a recognised status of which the fortunate few are proud, and the many, envious. It also carries with it sundry privileges, such as an extra supply of gunpowder and a right to private audience, but perhaps the predominant sentiment actuating this pride of office is one of vanity; for the sittings of the Council are held with closed doors, and matters are discussed with the secrecy so dear to the heart of the Ashanti.

10. The out-station of Mampon, in the Central District, was no longer considered necessary, and was abandoned in consequence during the month of December.

III.—JUDICIAL.

Criminal Cases.

1. One hundred and twenty-eight criminal cases were heard in the Chief Commissioner's Court. Fifty accused were discharged, and 78 convicted to various terms of imprisonment.

2. In the Cantonment Magistrate's Court at Coomassie, 1,280 cases were heard; 632 offenders were convicted, 101 dismissed, 19 not proceeded with, and 7 committed for trial.

3. Of 50 cases heard by the Commissioner of the North Western District, 31 were convicted, 18 dismissed, and 1 committed for trial.

4. In the North Eastern District 43 cases were tried; 29 convicted, 5 discharged for want of evidence, 14 dismissed, and none committed for trial.

5. In the Southern District, 744 cases were tried; 674 convicted, 31 dismissed, and 35 withdrawn.

6. The officer in charge of Mampon tried 38 cases; 30 of these were convicted, 6 dismissed, and 2 committed for trial. Total for Ashanti, 2,283 cases; 1,443 convictions, 202 dismissals, and 59 withdrawals.

Civil Cases.

7. Heard by Chief Commissioner, 86; Cantonment Magistrate, 485; Commissioner North Western District, 72; Commissioner North Eastern District, 49; Commissioner Southern District, 279; Mampon, 29; total—1,000.

8. The following statement shows the number of civil and criminal cases heard in Ashanti during the year:—

—	Civil Cases.	Criminal Cases.	Total.
Chief Commissioner's Court	86	128	214
Cantonment Magistrate's Court	485	1,280	1,765
Commissioner's Court, North Western District	72	50	122
Commissioner's Court, North Eastern District	49	43	92
Commissioner's Court, Southern District ...	279	744	1,023
Mampon	29	38	67
	1,000	2,283	3,283

As against the following totals for 1905:—

Criminal cases	2,191
Civil cases	983
Total	3,174

9. The Concessions Court held 17 sittings during the year and issued 23 certificates of validity.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

1. The following is a list of Ordinances enacted expressly for Ashanti during 1906:—

No. 1.—Ashanti Administration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1906.

No. 2.—Ashanti Concessions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1906.

No. 3.—Ashanti Administration (Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1906.

No. 4.—Ashanti Foreign Enlistment Ordinance, 1906.

No. 5.—Ashanti Civil Process Extension Ordinance, 1906.

No. 6.—Ashanti Administration (Second Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1906.

No. 7.—Ashanti Rivers (Amendment) Ordinance, 1906.

No. 8.—Ashanti Administration (Third Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1906.

2. Rules under Section 27 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, were issued by the Chief Commissioner, with the approval of the Governor, concerning the following subjects:—

(*a.*) Rules with respect to Regulation of Towns and Villages made applicable to the towns of Nkoranza and Sunyani.

(*b.*) Amendment of Rules relating to Market.

(*c.*) Order applying Sections 9 and 13 of the Spirit Licence Ordinance, 1887, of the Gold Coast Colony to Berekum, Bechim, Nkwanta, Odumase, and Nseatra, in the North Western District of Ashanti.

(*d.*) Rules with respect to Licensed Letter Writers in Ashanti.

3. The following rivers were included under Schedule 1 by order of His Excellency the Governor:—Jim, Adra, and Ghwinuie.

V.—MILITARY.

1. The strength of the West African Frontier Force in Ashanti was as follows:—

Central District—	
Coomassie	893
Aguna	10
North Eastern District—	
Nkoranza	150
North Western District—	
Sunyani	144
	1,197

2. The above figures include European officers and non-commissioned officers not on leave of absence.

3. The Sikassiko detachment was withdrawn early in the year and added to Sunyani, where the whole company is now quartered.

4. Mampon was done away with as an out-station at the close of the year, and the company formerly quartered there was recalled to Coomassie.

5. The small detachment at Atebubu was withdrawn early in the year and sent to Nkoranza.

6. A total of six companies was stationed in Ashanti—four in Coomassie and one at Sunyani and Nkoranza respectively.

7. Colonel Carter, C.M.G., arrived in Coomassie in the month of March and assumed command of the regiment, vice Lieutenant-Colonel Tidswell, retired.

8. The volunteer movement among the mines and railway employees of the Southern District has met with decided success. These forces now number:—

—	Officers.	Non Commissioned Officers and Men.
Mines Volunteers	4	56
Railway Volunteers	1	36

Class firing was carried out continuously throughout the year.

VI.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1906 amounted to £32,328 17*s.* 10*d.*, against £17,532 in 1905.

2. The increase was mainly due to a new system of collecting caravan tolls; to the payment by the mines of £6,881 as "royalty," and to an increased demand for stamps—a sure sign of growing prosperity.

3. The items of revenue are as follows:—

Caravan taxes	£12,484	3	5
Court fines, &c.	628	10	3
Market and slaughter-house fees ...	844	15	0
Sale of reserve stores	810	5	3
Hunting licences	—		
Ferry dues	1,242	1	11
Carried forward...	£16,009	15	10

Revenue—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	£16,009	15	10
Sale of stamps, &c.	4,027	5	9
Prospecting and mining licences ...	30	0	0
Liquor licences	2,913	0	0
Auctioneers' licences	6	0	0
Dog licences	16	5	0
Canoe	60	19	0
Royalties	6,881	14	9
Sale of unserviceable stores	1	0	0
Rent from Government land	1,403	5	4
Dredging licences	60	0	0
Miscellaneous	287	6	5
Contribution from Ashanti Goldfields Corporation	607	5	9
Wine and beer licences	18	0	0
Arms and ammunition...	7	0	0
	£32,328	17	10

4. A comparative statement (marked A) will be found attached, showing items of revenue collected in 1905 and 1906. Increases appear under the following heads:—

1. Caravan tolls	£5,122	10	8
2. Market and slaughter-house fees ...	152	8	11
3. Sale of reserve rations	446	19	8
4. Ferry dues	426	10	8
5. Sale of stamps...	1,672	1	0
6. Prospecting and mining licences ...	20	0	0
7. Liquor licences	167	0	0
8. Auctioneers' licences...	6	0	0
9. Canoe	60	19	0
10. Royalties	6,881	14	9
11. Rent from Government lands ...	314	14	11
12. Dredging licences	60	0	0
13. Miscellaneous	11	1	4
14. Wine and beer licences	18	0	0
15. Arms and ammunition	7	0	0
	£15,367	0	11

The increase under item 1 has been alluded to in paragraph 2. A new system of collecting caravan tolls was introduced in the month of March, but was abolished in November as undesirable.

Increases on items 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 15 were due to normal development. Item 3 is special, in so far that a reduced scale of "Reserve Rations" was adopted, and large quantities of articles in store were sold off. Item 5 speaks well for the increasing prosperity of the country. The increase under item 10 was due to the payment of deferred "royalty."

5. Decreases are shown under:—

1. Court fines	£252	10	9
2. Hunting licences	0	10	0
3. Dog licences	8	0	0
4. Sale of unserviceable stores	11	7	1
5. Contribution from Ashanti Goldfields Corporation	297	15	3
	£570	3	1

Item 1 calls for special mention. The decrease was mainly due to the restricted need for executive fines. A decrease of £252 on £881 of the previous year, speaks volumes in favour of the general behaviour of a once turbulent and insubordinate race.

EXPENDITURE.

6. The expenditure during the year was £85,125 6*s.* 4*d.*, as against £92,053 8*s.* 5*d.* in 1905—a decrease of £6,928 2*s.* 1*d.* This includes the three-fourths (£45,727 5*s.* 3*d.*) of the total cost of the Gold Coast Regiment, which amounted to £60,969 13*s.* 9*d.* (*vide* attached statement marked B).

7. Deducting the cost of the Military Department, the cost of administration amounted to £39,398 1*s.* 1*d.*, against £34,523 3*s.* 5*d.* in 1905. This increase is due to normal development of the administrative machinery.

Increased expenditure appeared under:—

1. Ashanti	£16,269	19	9
2. Transport Department	219	3	11
3. Public works...	213	14	8
4. Public works (extraordinary) ...	3,255	0	1
5. Botanical and agricultural... ...	103	3	4
6. Medical	346	19	7
	£20,408	1	4

The reason for the large increase under item 1 was due to expenditure formerly shown under other Departments being transferred to this head.

Item 4 was due to the erection of a new hospital and purchase of medical quarters. None of the other items call for special mention.

8. Decreases appeared under:—

1. Treasury	£2	7	11
2. Transport	10,608	12	3
3. Post and telegraphs	1,404	17	6
4. Post and telegraphs (extraordinary)...	2,054	4	10
5. Sanitary	23	11	0
6. W.A.F.F. (1st Battalion)	11,802	19	9
7. Police	656	0	0
8. Prisons	783	14	9
	£27,336	8	0

Decreases on items 2, 3, 5, and 8 are accounted for by the increased expenditure under the head "Ashanti." Decrease on item 4 was due to a discontinuance of telegraph extension and on item 7 to a fresh adjustment of the Vote.

9. The Treasury Department was consecutively in the charge of Messrs. Thompson, Palmer, Robinson, and Wheatley.

VII.—MEDICAL.

1. During 1906 the medical staff of Ashanti consisted of a Senior Medical Officer and five medical officers.

2. The Department was successively in charge of Doctors Rutherford, Rice, and Montgomery.

3. The average European population of Ashanti during 1906 was 383; of these 48 were officials and 335 non-officials. During the year six deaths occurred—all among non-officials—representing a European death-rate of 15 per thousand. Five officials and 24 non-officials were invalided—an invaliding-rate of 75 per thousand.

4. A death-rate of 15 per thousand is not excessive for West Africa, and, on the whole, the health of the Europeans in Ashanti may be described as fair.

5. There are no statistics available to calculate the health of the native population but there were no epidemics and therefore it would appear to have been normal.

6. At the Native Hospital 755 in-patients were admitted, of whom 20 died. In the out-patient department 8,485 new cases were treated.

7. During the year vaccination was systematically practised.

8. A European Hospital, containing four wards, is in course of construction.

9. Permanent latrine houses, constructed of corrugated iron and concrete, have now been erected in the town of Coomassie.

10. The water supply was good and plentiful. A number of new wells were constructed and some alterations made in some of the old ones.

VIII.—TRANSPORT.

2. The Transport Department in Ashanti during 1906 consisted of:—

1 Assistant Transport Officer.
1 Third Grade Clerk.
1 Fifth Grade Clerk.
1 Overseer.
17 Headmen and 408 carriers.

Of the above 17 gangs (1 headmen and 24 carriers to a gang) 7 were assigned to the Northern Territories and 10 to Ashanti. The latter were distributed as follows:—

5 gangs at Coomassie.
1½ „ „ Sunyani.
1½ „ „ Nkoranza.
1 „ „ Mampon.
1 „ „ Obuassi.

During the year 1,694 loads were despatched to the Northern Territories, 1,719 to the out-stations in Ashanti and 5,269 distributed in Coomassie, or a total of 8,672 loads as against 9,719 in 1905—a decrease of 1,047. This is accounted for by the fact that fewer loads were received for transmission to the Northern Territories than in former years.

2. Colour-Sergeant Strathdee was in charge of the Department from the 1st to the 24th January when he was relieved by Mr. Pott, who retained control until November 25th, on which date he handed over to Mr. Main.

IX.—POLICE.

1. The Police Force in Ashanti is divided between the Central and Southern Districts; the whole being in charge of an Assistant Commissioner who resides at Coomassie.

2. The force on the 31st of December numbered:—

In Kumase—
1 Assistant Commissioner of Police.
1 Superintendent.
1 Sergeant.
1 Corporal.
20 Constables.
23

In Obuassi—
1 Superintendent.
1 Sergeant.
1 Corporal.
17 Constables.
20

3. In Coomassie, 1,280 arrests were effected during the year—991 of which were convicted, 229 discharged, and 60 committed for trial, as against 758, 236 and 19 during 1905.

At Obuassi, 758 arrests were made, which resulted in 669 convictions, 67 discharges, and 22 withdrawals.

4. The work and behaviour of the police was good. The Commissioner of the Southern District reports that: "Both

the non-commissioned officers and the constables showed a great deal of forbearance and commonsense on many occasions when dealing with obstreperous natives."

5. Besides the regular police force, 8 constables are employed by the mines, who are known as "Mines' Police," and 8 men were stationed in Ashanti, belonging to the "Railway Police," whose duty it is to safeguard the interests of the mines and the railway exclusively.

X.—PRISONS.

Coomassie Gaol.

1. The Coomassie Gaol is under the direct control of the Cantonment Magistrate. The staff consists of:—

1 Keeper of Prison,
5 Second-class Warders,
7 Temporary Warders, and
1 Matron.

2. The Male Prison is now in a satisfactory condition. The additional buildings, commenced in 1905, have been completed. They consist of an infirmary, three solitary cells, a condemned cell, and a new kitchen. A new Female Prison is also in course of construction.

3. The total number of male prisoners for the year was 620, against 601 in 1905; with a daily average of 78, made up as follows:—

Convicted prisoners	330
Debtors	30
Remanded, &c.	260
	620

(this includes political prisoners awaiting trial or detained for one reason or another).

4. The general health showed a marked improvement; 643 cases reported sick—a decrease of 62. One death occurred There were only three convicted female prisoners; debtors, 8, remanded, &c., 21.

5. Offences against prison discipline numbered 14 more than in 1905—but the percentage remains exceedingly low nevertheless (·166):—

Insubordination	10
Refusing to work	10
Theft	11
Fighting	4
Assaults	6
In possession of articles	2
Drunkenness	7
Extortion	2
	52

No offence against discipline occurred in the Female Prison.

6. Four escapes were recorded during the year. Three executions took place. The food was good and sufficient.

7. The prisoners were engaged mainly in road making, sanitary work, water carrying, and general clearing.

OBUASSI GAOL.

8. This gaol is still a temporary structure, in which prisoners undergoing sentence of six months and under are confined.

The staff consists of:—

1 First-class Warder (Acting Gaoler),
3 Second-class Warders, and
3 to 5 Temporary Warders (according to the number of prisoners).

9. The Commissioner reports that:—"The prison at Obuassi still consists of a large corrugated iron shed, divided into four large compartments, which afforded a minimum of 1,800 cubic feet of air for each prisoner confined during the year. One thing that can be said for the present prison is that it is undoubtedly healthy, for out of a daily average number of 32 prisoners during the year, there were no deaths, no admissions to hospital, and there was a daily average of 1·83 on the sick list, nearly all of whom were fit for work or light work. During the year only one prisoner escaped from the prison, and four escaped from the warders while out at work, making a total of five escapes in all, three of whom were recaptured."

"The prisoners' rations were supplied by contract, at the rate of 3*d*. a prisoner per diem."

XI.—CRIME.

1. 2,283 criminal cases were heard in Ashanti, during 1906, against 2,191 in 1905, resulting in 1,443 convictions against 1,676.

2. These were mostly accounted for under the following heads:—Public nuisance, assault, breaches of the peace, larceny (Section 99), stealing (Section 269), and miscellaneous. Of the 14 cases of murder shown in the Return C (attached), only six came up for trial, resulting in five convictions.

3. Assuming the population to be some 500,000 souls, the 1,443 convictions represent one conviction for every 340 people, against one conviction for every 292 people in 1905.

4. There is no doubt that crime has decreased during the last year, but this may be due to the reduced native staff on the mines—who, being strangers, and mixing in a cosmopolitan community, are more prone to commit breaches of the peace than the natives of the country.

XII.—PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

Ashanti only numbers three Preventive Service Stations. These are all on the Volta River, the boundary between Ashanti and German Togoland. A European inspector is in charge of the stations and is directly under the Collector of Customs at Accra.

2. Messrs. Ross, Harrigin, and Berkeley were, consecutively, in charge of the Ashanti section, Kratchi, Jambossu, and Akossu.

3. The amount of £789 19*s.* 10*d.* was collected during the year at Kratchi as ferry dues, against £815 11*s.* 3*d.* in 1905. £77 6*s.* 9*d.* was received as duty on imports, and five smugglers were caught, who were fined £6.

XIII.—POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

1. Post offices are now established at Coomassie, Obuassi, Akrokerri and at the headquarters of districts, *i.e.*, Sunyani and Nkoranza.

2. Mails are received at Coomassie from, and despatched to, the coast, three times a week; from and to the Northern Territories once a week; from and to Sunyani and Nkoranza, also once a week.

3. The following statement shows the work done by the Post Offices in Ashanti during the year:—

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and post cards	94,867	99,375	194,242
Book packets, &c.	3,323	47,139	50,462
Registered articles	12,057	5,987	18,044
Parcels	1,049	1,616	2,665
Total	111,296	154,117	265,413

as against the following totals for 1905:—Forwarded, 93,368; received, 116,002; total, 209,370.

4. The Post Office receipts for the year were:—Coomassie, £13,469 12*s.* 2*d.*; Obuassi, £12,199 10*s.* 5*d.*; Akrokerri, £207 5*s.* 10*d.*; or a total of £25,876 8*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of £4,352 0*s.* 5*d.* in 1905.

5. Post Office Savings Banks are established at Coomassie and Obuassi. The total number of depositors was 74, with deposits to the value of £691 3*s.* 6*d.*, an increase of £594 6*s.* 6*d.* on the previous year.

6. Telegraph stations are established at Kwissa, Obuassi, Coomassie, Nkoranza, and Atebubu. 30,301 messages were received and sent from Coomassie, and 12,792 received and sent from Obuassi.

7. Mr. Jackson was in charge of the Coomassie Post Office, and Mr. Quartey was at Obuassi.

XIV.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

1. The year under review showed an unprecedented increase over 1905 in the volume of local trade.

2. Coomassie may now be said to be fast developing into the trading centre of all this part of the country, and has quite appropriated to itself (except with regard to spirits) the trade formerly existing between Ashanti and the coast—in other words, the natives now buy their goods in Coomassie instead of proceeding to the coast towns to do so.

IMPORTS.

3. The imports into Ashanti by railway amounted to 10,785 tons, which paid a freightage of £53,919, as against 9,041 tons which yielded £41,633 in 1905; this, however, does not by any means represent the total imports, as the above figures do not include articles introduced into Ashanti on men's heads, which, on a rough calculation, may be reckoned at 20 per cent. of the railway imports, and much more as regards value if the spirit trade is included.

4. Owing to the high freightage charged by the railway, merchants caused nearly all their supplies of spirits to be imported on men's heads. Anomalous as it may sound, a case containing 12 bottles of spirits costs between 9*s*. and 10*s*. by railway, and only 4*s*. by carrier. It is not surprising, therefore, that recourse is had to the latter means of transport by the trading community.

5. The Commissioner of the Southern District reports as follows:—"Generally speaking, the trade of the past year compares favourably with that of 1905, though in some particular instances a noticeable falling off is observed. This is especially to be seen in the sale of spirits and chiefly in that of rum, the sales of which article are only three-fourths of what they were during 1905. Against this deficiency there is a slight increase in the gin trade, but the increase is so small as to be hardly appreciable, and there is left a considerable falling off in the spirit trade to be made up in some other way. This was fortunately accomplished, and more than accomplished, in the sale of cotton clothing, &c., the sales of the articles mentioned being far in advance of 1905. Thus it is found that the volume of trade in 1906 is well ahead of 1905, the increase amounting, roughly, to £4,500."

EXPORTS.

6. The total exports by railway from Ashanti amounted to 2,221 tons, which paid a freight of £12,626, as against 2,070 tons, representing £8,729 freightage during 1905.

7. The Coomassie exports of rubber and cocoa amounted to 881 tons valued at £172,923, and 179 tons valued at £6,701, respectively. A comparison with former years cannot be drawn, as 1906 was the first year for which statistics were available, but the increase on former years was undoubtedly considerable.

8. From the Western District comes as follows:—"Trade appears to be in a flourishing condition, the principal industries being:—

"(i.) *Rubber.*—A large amount of rubber is being collected in the district, the majority of which is sold in Coomassie, but a certain amount collected around Sekwa finds its way to German territory. It is hard to tell whether more has been collected this year than previously, as the chiefs cannot give any idea of the number of loads gathered. The chiefs assure me that greater care is now taken in tapping the trees. The trees one sees near the roadside certainly appear to have been better treated, but it is difficult to say what happens further away in the forest. It is a pity that the chiefs cannot be induced to take a more active interest in this product, and clear ground and plant trees instead of only collecting from existing ones.

"(ii.) *Kola.*—There seems to be no difficulty in disposing of all the kola gathered, and I imagine the demand is far in excess of the supply.

"(iii.) *Tobacco.*—In the northern part of the district nearly every village has a small supply, but it cannot be nearly sufficient, as a large quantity is imported into the district and sold.

"(iv.) *Cotton.*—Practically no more cotton has been planted during the past year, the natives being convinced that there is not sufficient profit to be made out of it."

9. The Commissioner of the Northern District reports that "most of the trade loads passing through Nkoranza consisted of kola going north, also a fair amount of cloth and small goods which are mostly sold at Nkoranza and Kintampo."

10. From the Southern District comes the following:—"On the purchase side of the business a large increase is also shown. The quantity of rubber purchased during the year is nearly double the quantity purchased in 1905; and another native product that has come in very largely is gum copal. This was first brought into Obuassi in 1905, and although the industry did not start until about the end of February, 1906, the quantity sent down for shipment, between the commencement and the end of the year, amounted to upwards of 43½ tons."

This latter industry is entirely due to the initiative of Captain Armitage, D.S.O., Commissioner of the Southern District, and I am pleased to be able to record my appreciation of his work in this connection.

AGRICULTURE.

1. The increasing attention devoted by the Ashantis to agriculture is most encouraging. As many as 64,240 rubber trees

(*Funtumia elastica*) were distributed among the natives during the year. As a commencement, this fact alone is promising.

2. Cocoa plantations are developing fast, especially in the eastern part of Ashanti, the produce of which is brought to Coomassie, where the owners obtain high prices owing to the keen competition among the European firms.

3. The following is from the Southern District:—"With regard to agriculture, the most pleasing feature of the past year was the zeal shown by the natives to plant rubber and cocoa, and every encouragement was given them to do so. Eleven thousand rubber plants were distributed free amongst the chiefs, which, I am pleased to say, are doing well. Numbers of the natives have been greatly impressed by the amount of money there is to be made out of cocoa, and around many of the towns very healthy plantations are springing up, which have every appearance of rewarding the growers in a few years, as well as increasing the trade of the Colony."

4. An Agricultural Station was started at Coomassie in the month of March, 1906, and satisfactory progress has been made in clearing the bush, laying out nurseries, and planting out various economic products, such as cotton, jute, and cinnamon. The progress achieved in nine months was creditable to all concerned, and raises ambitious expectations with regard to the future. Mr. Burbridge, Assistant Curator, commenced operations in March, but had to proceed to Tarkwa in July, when he handed over to Mr. Martinson, who has been in charge of the Station since then.

5. The general outlook is, therefore, full of promise. Rubber trees are being planted out, cocoa plantations are springing up in several directions, and the kola crop is increasing—three distinct and tangible gains in the agricultural world of Ashanti.

XV.—RAILWAY.

1. The Ashanti section of the Gold Coast Government Railway is 66½ miles in length, extending from the River Ofin to Coomassie. The section is in the charge of an assistant engineer.

2. The principal improvements carried out during the year have been the running of three through trains a week between Seccondee and Coomassie, which innovation came into force on the 8th of October; the reduction upon haulage of coal and machinery; and the clearing and felling of dangerous trees on the railway line. Speaking generally, the railway service has steadily improved.

XVI.—MINES.

1. During 1906 the amount of gold obtained by the mining and dredging companies was:—75,694·7 ounces, valued at £294,687—as compared with 68,259·475 ounces, valued at £254,790 in 1905.

2. The following statement shows the amounts produced by each company:—

Company.	Ozs. recovered.	Value.
		£ s. d.
Mining—		
Akrokerri Mines, Ltd....	23,063·98	98,012 19 10
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation ...	42,301·60	156,669 0 0
Sansu Mines, Ltd.	3,793·32 also 11·2 tons concentrates.	14,311 17 0
Obenemase Goldfields, Ltd.	119·95	2,600 0 0
London Ashanti Gold Mining Company	83·03	435 0 0
Dredging—		329 16 6
Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary	3,256·237	13,025 18 4
Ofin River Gold Estates	2,976·575	11,902 12 0

3. The labour employed by the mines in Ashanti—exclusive of wood-cutters—was:—

European	157
Natives	3,356
	3,513

On the whole, the supply of native labour was steady.

4. The amount of £2,122 was paid into the Treasury by holders of concessions in Ashanti, as rent on behalf of the native lessors, as against £1,573 in 1905.

5. The Mines' Volunteers (first established in 1905) in Ashanti numbered, on the 31st December:—Obuassi, 2 officers and 42 non-commissioned officers and men. Akrokerri, 2 officers and 14 non-commissioned officers and men—a total of 60 as against 80 in 1905. This large decrease is accounted for by the fact that several of the mines were changing their employees at the end of the year, and that fewer Europeans were actually in the country at that period.

XVII.—EDUCATION.

1. The only education received by the youth of Ashanti is provided by the Christian Missions, no Government Schools having as yet been established.

2. The Basel Mission numbers 12 schools, with a pupil attendance of 215. The schools are distributed as follows:—

Central District	8
Western District	2
Northern District...	1
Southern District...	1
	12

An increase of two schools and eight pupils on the year 1905.

3. The Wesleyan Mission numbers six schools, with an average attendance of 255—an increase of 36 on 1905:—

1 School in the Central District, average attendance, 114.
4 Schools in the Southern District, average attendance, 99.
1 School in the Western District, average attendance, 42.

4. The instruction given in the Mission Schools is elementary, and although a start has been made, education among the natives may be said scarcely to exist nor will it until the Government has established undenominational schools of its own. The Ashantis are afraid of the proselytising tendencies of the Mission Schools, hence the poor support the latter have hitherto received.

XVIII.—RELIGION.

1. The worship generally known as "Fetichism" (now a generic term clouded in mystery and uncertainty) still remains the predominent creed of Ashanti. Ancestral gods—tribal, family, and individual—demand, and obtain, a deal of propitiation, but faith does not end there. Besides the ancestral worship common to all, every household, every married couple, has its own particular "cult." It consists in the worship of some peculiar object, the gall-stone of a sheep, weird concoctions of the alchemist's art, crocodiles' hearts, and leopards' paws, &c., a magical mixture of herbs, an animal, a tree, a fluid, &c. None of these objects, however, are worshipped for their intrinsic power, they are but the homes of spirits, and become sacred in consequence. The dividing line between idolatry and the reverence of tokens has, in all ages, been thin, sometimes, indeed, scarcely perceptible, and I am satisfied that there is little or no idolatry among the Ashantis. A love of their forbears and a fear of a multitude of malignant spirits constitutes the best part of the religious belief of this people.

2. The only proselytisation that can be said to exist is confined to the Christian Churches—and, truth to relate, the movement is of the slowest, as the figures below will show. For some reason, hard to define, the Ashanti bears a lively contempt towards the religion of Mahommed (the rite of circumcision plays an important part in the matter), and no footing has been gained by Islamic propagandists in this country.

3. The Basel Mission now numbers 276 members—122 of whom are children; these figures show an increase of 30 on last year.

4. The Mission is in the charge of the Rev. P. Bauer, whose staff consists of two European missionaries, one native missionary, one native minister, 12 native catechists, and three native teachers.

The Rev. Zimmermann left in June and was succeeded by the Rev. Lipps. Towards the end of the year the Mission was able to welcome back Mr. Ramseyer, with whose name the Mission in Ashanti is so closely associated. The Mission has acquired a new plot of land, in a suitable central position, in exchange for the old site at Bantama, and buildings are being erected thereon with laudable rapidity.

5. The Wesleyan Mission statistics for 1906 show a membership made up as follows:—Full members, 303, on trial, 60, catechumens, nil; a total of 363 against 216 in 1905—an increase of 147.

6. The total Christian population among half a million people is 639.

XIX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

1. The following is a list of public works completed or commenced during 1906:—

Police and transport quarters, Coomassie.
New cells at gaol, Coomassie.
Hospital, dispensary, and kitchen at gaol, Coomassie.
Police station at Zongo, Coomassie.
Curator's bungalow, Coomassie.
European hospital, Coomassie.
Female prison, Coomassie.
Slaughter-house, Obuassi.
Rest-house, Kwissa.

These works were all carried out under the supervision of a foreman belonging to the Public Works Department, with the exception of the last two buildings.

2. The labour market—both skilled and unskilled—is gradually assuming larger proportions, but the dearth of contractors

continues to hamper the Department. Wages vary between 3*s.* for skilled labour, and 1*s.* for unskilled.

The total expenditure under public works extraordinary was £4,938 17*s.* 8*d.*

XX.—COOMASSIE TOWN.

1. The town is developing with surprising rapidity and the eagerness with which building plots are sought after by strangers, *i.e.*, coast natives and others, is a sign of the prosperity and popularity of the town.

2. Building operations have been the rule throughout the year. All the principal Ashanti chiefs now own large European houses, which they lease to strangers at good rentals. Thirty-two new houses were erected during the year, exclusive of native houses. Ground rent received by the Government amounted to £1,354 13*s.* 4*d.*, an increase of £271 12*s.* on 1905.

3. The European firms in Coomassie number 12, as against 11 last year. Appendix D gives a detailed account of the population of the town—which shows an increase of 340 over 1905. Although accurate, the return is misleading, owing to the fact that most of the Coomassie Ashantis do not live in the town, but have their homes in numberless villages close to, and these people only assemble in large numbers on stated occasions such as festivals, &c. The wandering Hausa (a generic term for all up-country traders) population is, moreover, difficult to gauge, as it greatly depends on the crops and the elements.

4. The new market-place—established at the latter end of 1905—has proved a decided success, and the question of providing an annex is now under consideration. The main improvement in the town took the form of a street—drains, culverts, wells, and lamp-posts—besides the draining of the swamp which practically surrounded Coomassie, but may now be said to be fast disappearing.

XXI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The Chief Commissioner visited the southern portion of the Western district in the month of February, and the northern portion of the same district in November.

The Acting Chief Commissioner visited the most important towns of the Central District in June.

2. Captain Soden, Travelling Commissioner, was appointed Commissioner vice Major Davidson-Houston, promoted, and Captain Bishop, D.S.O., was appointed Travelling Commissioner.

3. Several new rest-houses for Europeans were erected by the chiefs along the main roads.

4. The following were the meteorological observations for the year:—

—	Average Maximum Temperature.	Average Minimum Temperature.	Rainfall.
			ins.
Coomassie	89°·50	69°	75·33
Obuassi	87°·5	67°	71·70

F. C. FULLER.

April 11th, 1907.

APPENDICES.

RETURN A.

Comparative Statement of REVENUE collected in ASHANTI during the years 1905 and 1906.

Heads of Revenue.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Caravan Taxes	7,361 12 9	12,484 3 5	5,122 10 8	—
Court Fines, &c.	881 1 0	628 10 3	—	252 10 9
Market and Slaughter House Fees	692 6 1	844 15 0	152 8 11	—
Sale of Reserve Rations	363 5 7	810 5 3	446 19 8	—
Hunting Licences	0 10 0	—	—	0 10 0
Ferry Dues	815 11 3	1,242 1 11	426 10 8	—
Sale of Stamps, &c.	2,355 4 9	4,027 5 9	1,672 1 0	—
Prospecting and Mining Licences	10 0 0	30 0 0	20 0 0	—
Liquor Licences	2,746 0 0	2,913 0 0	167 0 0	—
Auctioneers' Licences	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	—
Dog Licences	24 5 0	16 5 0	—	8 0 0
Canoe	—	60 19 0	60 19 0	—
Royalties	—	6,881 14 9	6,881 14 9	—
Sale of Unserviceable Stores	12 7 1	1 0 0	—	11 7 1
Rent from Government Land	1,088 10 5	1,403 5 4	314 14 11	—
Dredging Licences	—	60 0 0	60 0 0	—
Miscellaneous	267 5 1	287 6 5	11 1 4	—
Contributions from Ashanti Goldfields Corporation.	905 1 0	607 5 9	—	297 15 3
Wine and Beer Licences	—	18 0 0	18 0 0	—
Arms and Ammunition	—	7 0 0	7 0 0	—
Total	17,532 0 0	32 328 17 10	15,367 0 11	570 3 1

RETURN B.

Comparative Statement of EXPENDITURE in ASHANTI during the years 1905 and 1906.

Head of Expenditure.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ashanti	9,969 5 0	26,239 4 9	16,269 19 9	—
Treasury	644 12 6	642 4 7	—	2 7 11
Transport Department	303 6 8	522 10 7	219 3 11	—
Transport	10,608 12 3	—	—	10,608 12 3
Post and Telegraphs	2,431 17 7	1,027 0 1	—	1,404 17 6
Do. Extraordinary	2,108 1 10	53 17 0	—	2,054 4 10
Public Works	238 12 9	452 7 5	213 14 8	—
Do. Extraordinary	1,683 17 7	4,938 17 8	3,255 0 1	—
Botanical Agricultural	—	103 3 4	103 3 4	—
Medical	3,660 4 0	4,007 3 7	346 19 7	—
Sanitary	23 11 0	—	—	23 11 0
W. A. F. Force (1st Battalion)	57,530 5 0	45,727 5 3	—	11,802 19 9
Police	1,467 11 1	811 11 1	—	656 0 0
Prisons	1,383 15 9	600 1 0	—	783 14 9
Total	92,053 8 5	85,125 6 4	20,408 1 4	27,336 8 0

Return C.

Criminal Cases heard in 1906.

—	Abduction.	Assault.	Assault on police.	Indecent.	Arson.	Breach of the peace.	Burglary.	Carnal knowledge.	Causing harm.	Causing derailment.	Drunkenness.	Drumming without permit.	Embezzlement.	Extortion.	Forgery.	Firearms Ordinance.	Housebreaking.	Larceny (Sec. 99).	Manslaughter.	Master and servant.	Murder.	Murder, attempt to.	Obtaining under false pretences.	Language, abusive.	Language, indecent.	Public nuisance.	Rape.	Receiving stolen property.	Robbery.	Selling spirits.	Slave dealing.	Smuggling.	Stealing (Sec. 269).	Wounding.	Wounding cattle.	Unlawful entry by night.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
Chief Commissioner's Court.	—	14	—	—	2	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	4	7	1	—	6	—	—	2	—	—	—	8	19	—	—	—	17	—	8	5	25	128
Cant. Magistrate's Court.	—	177	38	12	2	130	8	—	—	—	8	25	1	—	6	—	2	45	5	-	7	1	11	26	—	381	—	35	14	2	2	—	121	8	—	—	244	1,280
Southern District	—	40	8	5	—	82	—	2	1	4	16	24	—	1	—	—	—	29	—	—	7	—	3	1	—	344	—	24	—	—	—	5	36	4	-	4	104	744
N.W. District ..	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	-	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	11	—	—	—	7	50
N.E. District ..	—	7	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	11	43
Mampon	—	6	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	- -	—	—	10	38
Total ..	—	261	46	18	4	230	8	7	2	4	24	49	1	6	10	4	6	81	6	—	20	1	21	29	—	734	—	68	35	3	5	5	196	12	8	9	401	2,283

RETURN D.

Population of Coomassie, 1906.

Number of New Houses.	Number of Old Houses.	Ashantees.			Fantees.			Mohamedans.			Other Tribes.			Europeans.		Number of European dwelling-houses.	Total.
		Number of Ashanti men.	Number of Ashanti women.	Number of Ashanti children.	Number of Fanti men.	Number of Fanti women.	Number of Fanti children.	Number of Mohamedan men.	Number of Mohamedan women.	Number of Mohamedan children.	Number of other Tribes: men	Number of other Tribes: women.	Number of other Tribes: children.	Number of European Civil Officials.	Number of European Non-Officials.		
32	518	1,228	1,520	1,082	231	264	126	620	505	255	155	176	84	9	25	16	1906 ... 6,280 1905 ... 5,940 Increase 340

Coomassie.

December, 1906.

T. PAMPLIN GREEN,

Cantonment Magistrate and Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
494	Ceylon	1905
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas...	1905–1906
497	Barbados...	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar...	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands...	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture (1884).
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Forest of Kenia.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 564.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 523.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1908.

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No. 564.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 523.)

The GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Accra,

1st June, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Ashanti Annual Report for the year 1907, and to explain that the delay in transmission was caused by the absence of certain financial returns.

2. Dealing, seriatim, with the various headings of this Report, I would offer the following observations:—

ADMINISTRATION.

The division of Ashanti into Provinces and Districts, as in the Colony, has been successfully carried out, and has effected a marked improvement in the administration.

POLITICAL.

The friendly relations between British officials and native chiefs have been well maintained, and the manner in which the chiefs are now interesting themselves in the agricultural and commercial development of their divisions, under the guidance of Provincial and District Commissioners, is very satisfactory.

The "Abircwa" fetish, referred to in paragraph 8, has already formed the subject of local correspondence, and is being kept under careful supervision. When Mr. Fuller returns from leave, however, I will call for a special report on this new fetish, as I am inclined to think that it will be advisable to suppress it altogether.

1125 Wt 24282 7/08 D & S 5 32903

JUDICIAL.

The decrease in the number of criminal cases, as compared with that of the previous year, although the number of such cases is still somewhat large at Obuassi, tends to show an increasing respect for law and order.

LEGISLATION.

The Ordinance regulating the importation into Ashanti, under strict conditions, of trade guns and gunpowder has proved thoroughly successful, as it has not merely satisfied the legitimate requirements of the natives, but has also very materially reduced the smuggling, formerly prevalent, from adjoining territories.

The system of imposing tolls on all produce and goods passing between Ashanti and the Colony, unfortunately established at the beginning of the year, was abolished in November.

MILITARY.

The question of converting one of the six Ashanti companies of the Gold Coast Regiment into a Pioneer Company, to consist of men trained in road, bridge, and building work, is now under consideration.

VOLUNTEERS.

The volunteer movement made good progress during the year under review.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Mainly owing to the special military expenditure required, the actual revenue of Ashanti cannot be expected, for some years to come, to meet the actual expenditure; but, for financial as well as administrative purposes, the Colony and its Dependencies must be treated as a whole, and every development in the hinterland increases, directly or indirectly, the Colonial budget receipts.

MEDICAL.

The health returns, both for Europeans and natives, are satisfactory, and sanitation has been generally improved. A special report will be called for on the subject of sleeping sickness in Coomassie; but, with reference to paragraph 6, the presence of tsetse flies cannot properly be described as a "discovery," since specimens of such flies were shown to me at Coomassie in 1905.

TRANSPORT.

The forwarding of stores through Ashanti to the Northern Territories has not been altogether satisfactory, and there was

special trouble at the time of the military manœuvres; but this is a matter which rather concerns the Transport Department than the Ashanti Administration.

POLICE.

The organisation of the police has been much improved, and the present force may be considered very fairly efficient.

PRISONS.

The present gaol at Coomassie consists of substantial buildings, surrounded by walls, and the labour of prisoners has been effectively organized. Only convicts whose sentences exceed three years are now transferred to Colonial gaols.

CRIME.

The comparative absence of serious crime speaks well for the native inhabitants of Ashanti.

PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

The smuggling of dutiable goods from Togoland has been diminished, but not yet entirely suppressed.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

This service has been greatly improved; and, by the completion of the telegraph line from N'Koranza to Sunyani during the current year, every district will shortly be in telegraphic communication with headquarters.

TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

Coomassie is rapidly becoming an important trade centre for the hinterland, not merely of the Gold Coast, but also of adjoining territories.

The extension of cocoa plantations and the planting of rubber are very encouraging; and, although the prices of both cocoa and rubber were low last year, the chiefs are evidently paying more attention to agriculture and to the collection of their forest products. The newly-established Agricultural Station at Coomassie and the appointment of a native travelling instructor have tended to stimulate a more intelligent interest in agricultural development, both among the chiefs and their people.

RAILWAY.

The traffic between Ashanti and the coast, by railway, is still capable of considerable further development.

Mines.

The output of gold from mines in Ashanti shows an increase of nearly 2,000 oz., as compared with that for the previous year; but, with the exception of the Goldfields Corporation, relatively better results were obtained by the dredging than by the mining companies.

Education.

Provision for establishing a Government school at Coomassie will be entered in the 1909 Estimates; and, in the meanwhile, arrangements are being made for training a few boys from Ashanti and the Northern Territories in the Government school at Cape Coast.

Religion.

In paragraphs 1-4 Captain Armitage describes concisely, and, in my opinion, accurately, the "Fetishism" of West Africa.

Public Works.

The development of road communications, especially the construction of the trunk road from Coomassie to Tamale, the headquarters of the Northern Territories, is the most urgent need of Ashanti; and the votes provided for this purpose during the current year should be annually increased, for several years to come, if funds are available in the Colonial budget.

Coomassie.

The general improvement of this township, in sanitation, roads, buildings, &c., reflects much credit on all concerned.

Miscellaneous.

The Ashanti exhibits at the Sekondi Agricultural Show were greatly admired and gained many prizes; and the next annual agricultural show will be held at Coomassie in December of the current year.

3. In conclusion, I think that the successful efforts of Mr. Fuller and his assistants to develop the resources of Ashanti and to promote the welfare of its inhabitants are deserving of high commendation.

I have, &c.,

John Rodger,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe,
&c., &c., &c.

ASHANTI ANNUAL REPORT, 1907.

I.—ADMINISTRATION.

1. The Order of His Majesty the King in Council, dated the 22nd October, 1906, further defining the boundaries of Ashanti and annexing certain territories previously included in the Northern Territories, came into force on the 1st January, 1907, as did an Order by the Governor dividing Ashanti into new Districts, whereby the following changes were effected:—

The North Eastern District and the newly acquired territory became the Northern District of Ashanti.

The style of the North Western District was changed to that of the Western District of Ashanti.

The Central and Southern Districts remained unchanged.

2. The style of "District" was by the Ashanti Administration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1907 (No. 3 of 1907), dated the 25th October, 1907, changed to that of "Province."

3. On the 1st January the administrative staff of Ashanti was increased by four District Commissioners—later raised to five.

The appointment of District, or, as they were at first styled, Assistant District, Commissioners, have been attended with the most beneficial results, enabling, as it does, one or other of the two officers stationed in each Province to travel through the country, and thus become acquainted with, and looked up to by, the natives, for whom, in many instances, a personal knowledge of their administrators had not previously existed.

4. An Ordinance to make better provision with reference to Commissioners in Ashanti, dated the 25th October, 1907, gave increased civil and criminal jurisdiction to Provincial Commissioners of Ashanti and defined the jurisdiction of the District Commissioners.

5. The Chief Commissioner proceeded on leave of absence on the 14th of December, from which date Captain Armitage, D.S.O., assumed the administration of Ashanti.

Central Province.

6. This Province includes Coomassie, Atchima, Juabin, Mampon, Kumawu, Insuta, Aguna, Ejisu, Ofinsu, Bompata (including Agogo), and Obogu. The Chief Commissioner made three tours to the north, east, and west of the Province in January, May, and September respectively, and the District Commissioner paid numerous visits to the outlying districts.

7. Captain E. H. Hobart acted as District Commissioner of the Central Province until May, when he was relieved by Captain H. A. Kortright. The Cantonment Magistrate exercised jurisdiction over Coomassie territory, that is, over lands owned by the Coomassie Chiefs, who, prior to the deportation of King Prempeh, formed the King of Ashanti's Council and ruled the tribes which, under the King, formed the Ashanti confederation. The District Commissioner exercised jurisdiction over the outlying tribes of the Central Province.

Northern Province.

8. The Northern Province includes Banda, Mo, Kintampo, Nkoranza, Abease, Atebubu, Wiase, and Kratchi, and headquarters have been established at Kintampo, in territory acquired under His Majesty's Order in Council already referred to. For administrative purposes the Province is divided into three principal Districts, viz.:—N'Koranza, Atebubu, and Banda. The Mo people, formerly under N'Koranza, are practically independent, and all Government orders are transmitted to the Head Chief through the Hausa Chief of Kintampo.

9. Captain F. E. Bishop, D.S.O., acted as Commissioner until relieved by Major C. E. D. O. Rew at the end of March. Captain Hobart acted as District Commissioner from the end of May.

Western Province.

10. The Western Province, which consists of British Gaman, Wanki, Tekiman, Berekum (including Bechim Ahafo and Borumfu), Wam and Asunafo Ahafo, was in charge of Captain H. de C. Denny from the 1st January to 1st March, and from the 7th November until the end of the year, the administration between these periods being undertaken by Mr. T. E. Fell, Provincial Commissioner. Mr. G. Risely Griffith acted as District Commissioner of the Province from May till October.

Southern Province.

11. This Province includes Bekwai (with its sub-Districts of Esumeja and Abodom), Kokofu, Adansi, Dengiassi, and Mansu N'Kwanta. Its administration was in the hands of Captain G. W. C. Soden, who proceeded on leave at the end of April, when Captain Kortright took charge until the arrival of Captain Armitage, who, on proceeding to Coomassie to take over from the Chief Commissioner, was relieved by Captain Soden. Mr. P. A. H. Pott was District Commissioner from May until the end of the year.

12. Matters affecting these four Provinces will be found classified under their respective headings.

II.—POLITICAL.

1. The Head Chiefs of Coomassie are at last beginning to realize that their rule, so far as the outlying tribes of Ashanti are concerned, is at an end, and have turned their attention to the consolidation of their subjects. Numerous disputes arising therefrom were adjusted during the year, as were the equally numerous rival claims of the chiefs to small areas of land in the vicinity of Coomassie.

2. On the succession to the Stool of Juabin of the brother of the late Omanhin Yow Sapong, who died in November, 1906, a party, headed by his sister, Amba Sewah, "Queen Mother" of Juabin, and his younger brother Siribu, actively opposed him. The Omanhin made no attempt to conciliate his relatives and their supporters, who daily gained in numbers, and the case was finally settled by the Chief Commissioner, who deposed and detained Amba Sewah in Coomassie and punished several of the opposition ringleaders.

3. There was no recrudescence of the revolt against the Omanhin of Aguna, mentioned in last year's Report, and the detachment of the Gold Coast Regiment stationed as a precautionary measure at Aguna was withdrawn.

4. The conduct of the chiefs and people of the newly formed Northern Province was exemplary throughout the year.

5. The Acting Commissioner of the Western Province reports an equally satisfactory state of affairs, and only one incident endangering the peace occurred.

During the year a deputation from Mankessim, a district situated in the Central Province of the Gold Coast, arrived at Odumase to procure the return of the descendants of a Mankessim woman who had been captured by the Ashantis over one hundred years before. These descendants were, to all intents and purposes, pure-bred Ashantis, but, on being given their choice as to whether they would remain in the country or go to Mankessim, a certain number of them decided to adopt the latter alternative. The incident was provocative of considerable friction and intense irritation on the part of the local chiefs.

6. The chief event of political importance affecting the Southern Province was the return of Chief Kudjoe Num, of Dengiassi, and his subjects from the Colony to Ashanti. The Dengiassi lands are situated to the west of the Bekwai District, and the chief and his people were driven from them in 1887 and sought refuge in the Protectorate. The Government made arrangements for them to reside in the division of Tufel (Twiforo), where the Dengiassis built villages not far from Imbraim, by which the Government railway now passes. Here they remained until July, when the chief and the greater

portion of his people reported themselves at Obuassi and proceeded to Dengiassi to rebuild on the sites of their old villages.

7. A plot to distool the Omanhin of Bekwai, whose loyalty to the Government during the rising of 1900 will be remembered, was discovered in June. The ringleader was a dissatisfied war captain, who was arrested, with the principal malcontents. It is satisfactory to note that none of the Bekwai Chiefs were involved in this attempt, which, from the first, was doomed to failure.

8. Early in the year a new cult, now known as the "Abirewa (Old Woman) Fetish," and having its origin in the Northern Territories, made its appearance in Ashanti, and spread with astonishing rapidity. It is worthy of description, as at one time it threatened to assume a position of great importance from a political point of view. The "Abirewa" was supposed to be accompanied by a male companion called Mangguro, who acted as her "executioner." Those who drank "Abirewa" believed themselves to be protected against evil influences: that it brought good health and prosperity so long as its rules were not transgressed, and that it killed witches and persons who dealt in black magic. Weekly dances took place at all villages which had accepted "Abirewa," and its devotees were distinguished by an oblong in white clay painted on the forehead and on either temple. So far it appeared to be harmless, but it was reported that the corpses of those who were said to have been killed by "Abirewa" were mutilated and otherwise maltreated and buried in shallow graves strewn with broken bottles, with most degrading formalities. These allegations were never fully proved, although several "Abirewa" priests were fined for "carrying" hair and parings of nails from the bodies of deceased persons to find out if "Abirewa" had killed them. The Chief Commissioner held a meeting of the chiefs to consider the expediency of allowing the fetish to be introduced into the Central Province, and as a diversity of opinion was shown, it was decided to leave the question to the decision of each Head Chief. The same course was adopted in the Provinces, and "Abirewa," in its most harmless form, is now practised throughout Ashanti.

9. Now that the Commissioners of Provinces have greater opportunities to travel, a large number of land disputes between chiefs of sub-districts were adjusted. In the Central Province the Chief Commissioner dealt with a land dispute between the Omanhins of Kumawu and Mampong, and gave a decision in favour of the former. Another important land case involving the rights of ownership of tribute from the Dema Lands formed the subject of dispute between the Omanhins of Bechim (Western Province), and Ofinsu (Central Province), and was decided by the Chief Commissioner in favour of the former. As, however, the Omanhin of Ofinsu refused to accept the compensation to be awarded to him should he relinquish

all claim to the land, and as the boundary between the Central and Western Provinces is affected by the decision, the disputants agreed to let matters stand over until the Chief Commissioner's return.

10. In the Southern Province the Chief Commissioner gave a final decision with regard to the long-standing boundary dispute between Bekwai and Adansi, which had been the cause of constant friction between these tribes, and of anxiety to the Administration. An accurate survey of the land having been made by the Gold Coast Survey, a boundary line, extending from the north-east to the south-west of the Province, and consisting wherever possible of natural features, was decided upon and accepted by the rival Omanhins, whose main object had been to secure to their tribe an area of land on which several concessions had been taken up. Evidence proved this to belong to the Omanhin of Adansi, and rumours were rife that the Bekwais intended to have recourse to arms, but, while some foundation for these undoubtedly existed, they were happily not realized. The boundaries between the lands of the chiefs of Banka and Borjisango were definitely laid down.

11. Fixed scales of fees to be charged in the Native Courts held in each of the four Provinces were drawn up and agreed to by the Head Chiefs throughout Ashanti, and have given rise to general satisfaction among the natives.

12. It will be gathered from the above that the year has been one of general progress and improvement and that the appointment of District Commissioners in Ashanti has been amply justified. The following may be cited as an instance of the increasing respect for the Administration exhibited by the Ashantis. A dispute between two chiefs in Fomena, the Omanhin of Adansi's town, brought about a fight between their followers, during which one man was killed and many wounded. On receipt of the news a sergeant and two police constables were despatched from Obuassi. These, with the help of the Omanhin, arrested the chiefs who had caused the outbreak, and no less than eighty-one of their followers, who, on the arrival of the Commissioner, were dealt with on the spot.

III.—JUDICIAL.

Criminal Cases.

The following table shows the number of criminal cases heard in the courts of Ashanti and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner ...	51	10	41	—	—
Cantonment Magistrate ...	864	88	715	32	29
District Commissioner, Central Province.	25	5	13	—	7
Commissoiner, Northern Province.	187	24	163	—	—
Commissioner, Western Province.	62	21	37	—	4
Commissioner, Southern Province.	909	65	802	40	2
British Kratchi	38	—	38	—	—
Total... ...	2,136	213	1,809	72	42

Civil Cases.

2. The following civil cases were heard:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	45
Cantonment Magistrate's Court ...	560
District Commissioner, Central Province	106
Commissioner, Northern Province ...	162
Commissioner, Western Province ...	138
Commissioner, Southern Province ...	356
	1,367

3. These figures compared with those of the previous year show a decrease of 147 in criminal, and an increase of 384 in civil cases.

4. It will be noticed that the Commissioner's Court of the Southern Province heads the list of criminal cases heard in the courts of Ashanti during the year. This is due to the fact that headquarters are situated at Obuassi on the property of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, and that, among a mixed and cosmopolitan mining population, much criminality in its less serious forms is bound to exist.

5. The Concession Division of the Chief Commissioner's Court sat on four occasions during the year. No certificate of validity was granted.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were enacted expressly for Ashanti during 1907:—

No. 1.—The Ashanti Concessions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1907.

No. 2.—The Ashanti Railway Assimilation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1907.

No. 3.—The Ashanti Administration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1907.

No. 4.—The Ashanti Commissioners Ordinance, 1907.

No. 5.—The Ashanti Firearms Ordinance, 1907.

2. No. 1 deals with the payment of Income Tax on their profits by concession holders in Ashanti.

No. 2 makes all Ordinances, regulations, and by-laws made with respect to railways applicable to any railway which is wholly or partially situated in Ashanti.

No. 3 amends the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, and defines the Provinces into which Ashanti is divided.

No. 4 makes better provision with reference to Commissioners in Ashanti, and has been already referred to under the heading of Administration.

No. 5 regulates the importation, introduction, storage, and disposal of firearms, ammunition, gunpowder and lead in Ashanti, and makes the conversion of flint-locks into cap guns illegal.

V.—MILITARY.

1. The strength of the West African Frontier Force in Ashanti on the 31st December, 1907, was: on active list (rank and file and gun carriers) 1,219 and reservists 134.

These figures include European officers and non-commissioned officers not on leave of absence.

2. N'koranza was done away with as an out-station at the close of the year 1906, and the company formerly quartered there was sent to Kintampo.

3. A total of six companies was stationed in Ashanti: four in Coomassie, and one at Sunyani and Kintampo respectively.

4. Colonel Carter, C.M.G., commanding the Gold Coast Regiment, proceeded on leave in May, 1907, and returned to Coomassie in October, when he reassumed command of the regiment from Major H. C. Stanley Clarke, R.A.

VOLUNTEERS.

1. The Ashanti Mines Volunteers numbered on the 31st December, 1907, 6 officers and 73 non-commissioned officers and men, all European employes of the mines. The Bibiani Company was placed under the Officer Commanding, Ashanti Mines Volunteers, during the year.

2. The Obuassi Company has, as part of its equipment, a 7 pr. M.L. gun and a Maxim gun.

3. Class-firing was carried out by the companies throughout the year. A challenge shield for competition among the Mines and Railway Volunteers of the Western Province of the Gold Coast and Ashanti was won for the second time by the Obuassi team.

4. A company of Railway Volunteers with headquarters at Obuassi was established during the year, and numbered 41 non-commissioned officers and men.

VI.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

REVENUE.

1. The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1907 amounted to £36,794 6*s.* 11*d.*, as against £32,328 17*s.* 10*d.* in 1906.

2. Normal increases are shown under Court fines, market and slaughter-house fees, sale of stamps, liquor licences, and rent from Government land, while an increase of £11,172 is due to the payment during the year of deferred royalties by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited.

3. A large decrease under caravan taxes is due to the abolition in November, 1906, of the caravan toll system introduced into Ashanti the previous March.

The necessity for the storage of large quantities of native rations in Coomassie no longer exists, and, owing to the reduction of expenditure under the head of reserve rations and to the large sales of old stores during the previous year, a considerable decrease is shown under sale of reserve rations.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during 1907 amounted to £82,302 13*s.* 1*d.*, as against £85,125 6*s.* 4*d.* in 1906; a decrease of £2,822 13*s.* 3*d.*, principally due to the fact that during the year 1906 a large expenditure was incurred under Public Works Extraordinary in building and by the purchase of medical quarters from the Basel Mission. Expenditure under

this item returned during the year under review to what may be termed a normal standard.

2. Apart from the decrease shown under Public Works Extraordinary, an increase of only £715 8*s.* 1*d.* was incurred, and of this sum the expenditure of £203 7*s.* 11*d.* is due to the establishment during the year of Railway Volunteers in Ashanti.

3. Taking into consideration the small increase in expenditure mentioned in paragraph 2 above, and the increase of revenue by £4,465 1*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with the figures for the previous year, the position of Ashanti during 1907 must be regarded as satisfactory from a financial point of view.

4. During the year the Treasury Department was consecutively in the charge of Messrs. L. H. Wheatley and Alfred Mensah.

VII.—MEDICAL.

1. During 1907 the medical staff of Ashanti consisted of a Senior Medical Officer, four Medical Officers, and a Nursing Sister, who arrived in Coomassie in December to take charge of the European hospital.

2. The average number of Europeans resident in Ashanti during 1907 was 380, and, as far as can be ascertained, only five deaths occurred among non-officials, and none among officials. This represents a death-rate of 13·158 per 1,000 among Europeans, as compared with 15 per 1,000 in 1906. Three officials and seven non-officials were invalided.

3. The health of Europeans and natives was good. The European hospital was opened on the 26th May, and, from that period to the end of the year, 31 cases were admitted, with an average detention of 6 days. At the native hospital at Coomassie 640 patients were admitted and 7,094 out-patients treated. At Obuassi 26 patients were admitted, while at the dispensary 1,632 old and 716 new cases were treated. One hundred and ninety-five vaccinations were performed at Coomassie, of which 125 were successful.

4. Twenty-five permanent latrines for natives have now been erected in Coomassie, and have proved to be a great improvement on the old system.

5. The water supply was good and plentiful, and the construction of a number of wells—in some cases fitted with pumps—has been of the greatest benefit to the native community.

6. Dr. Rice reports as follows:—"In view of the presence of sleeping sickness in Coomassie the most important event of the year has been the discovery of tsetse flies in Coomassie." The

first specimen, identified as *Glossina palpalis*, was caught in the native hospital; the second (*Glossina gallicara*), on the polo ground. Subsequent investigation proved that tsetse was to be found on all the roads leading out of Coomassie, and elsewhere.

4. The department was successively in charge of Doctors Montgomery and Rice.

VIII.—TRANSPORT.

1. The Transport Department in Ashanti during 1907 consisted of one assistant transport officer, one third grade clerk, one fourth grade clerk, one overseer, 14 headmen, and 336 carriers.

2. Of the above 14 gangs (1 headman and 24 carriers to a gang), 7 were assigned to the Northern Territories and 7 to Ashanti. The latter were all kept in Coomassie, as two special gangs were enlisted for the out-stations. A third special gang for the Southern Province was enlisted towards the end of the year.

3. During the year 1,979 loads were despatched to the Northern Territories: 951 to the out-stations in Ashanti, and 4,286 distributed in Coomassie, or a total of 7,216 loads, against 8,672 in 1906—a decrease of 1,456. This is accounted for by the fact that fewer loads were received for transmission to the Northern Territories than in former years.

4. During the year the officers controlling were successively Mr. Main, Mr. Lewis, and Lieutenant Tinling.

IX.—POLICE.

1. During the year the police were stationed at Coomassie in the Central, and Obuassi in the Southern, Province.

The force numbered on the 31st December, at Coomassie, 1 superintendent, 5 non-commissioned officers, 19 constables, and 3 escort police; and at Obuassi, 1 superintendent, 3 non-commissioned officers, 13 constables, and 4 escort police.

2. An Assistant Commissioner of Police was not available, but periodical inspections were made by officers from the Coast.

3. The Coomassie police effected 864 arrests, as against 1,280 in 1906—a decrease of 316.

4. The old police barracks at Coomassie was removed to make way for a new one, and, pending its erection, a building was leased in the town.

5. At Obuassi 909 arrests were effected, as against 758 in 1906—an increase of 151.

6. The efficiency and general conduct of the police, both at Coomassie and Obuassi, was good.

7. One sergeant, 4 corporals, and 5 constables were employed as mines police at Obuassi and Akrokerri during the year.

They were paid for by the mining companies and were directly under the mines' managers, except with regard to their pay, discipline, and interior economy.

8. The strength of the railway police employed in Ashanti was 2 sergeants and 6 constables.

They were under the control of the railway authorities, and their duties were exclusively confined to the railway.

X.—PRISONS.

Coomassie Gaol.

1. Coomassie Gaol was under the direct control of the Cantonment Magistrate during the year. The staff consists of 1 chief warder, 3 permanent, and 6 temporary, warders.

2. Escort work without the precincts of the prison was carried out by military escorts in conjunction with the warders.

3. With the opening of an infirmary and dispensary the male prison may be described as complete in every particular. A female prison was completed and consists of two wards for prisoners, quarters for the matron, and the usual accommodation for cooking.

4. The total number of prisoners was 691, against 620 in 1906, with a daily average of 62, made up as follows:—

Convicted	302
Debtors	67
Remanded, political prisoners awaiting trial or detained, want of security, &c.	322
	691

Of the above, 32 were female prisoners, of whom 8 were convicts, 11 debtors, and 13 were detained for safe custody.

5. The health of the prisoners was described by the Senior Medical Officer as being exceptionally good. No deaths occurred, and only 311 reported sick, as compared with 643 in 1906, showing a remarkable decrease of 332. The space allotted to each prisoner is 432 cubic feet.

6. Offences against prison discipline number 158, as against 52 for the previous year; an increase of 106, stated by the Cantonment Magistrate to be due to the slackness shown by a chief warder, who has now been removed.

No offences against discipline occurred in the female prison.

7. Three executions were carried out during the year, and there were 8 escapes and 4 recaptures.

8. The prisoners were mainly engaged in sanitary work, road making, water carrying, and general clearing.

9. The food supplied to the prisoners was good and sufficient. It was all cooked in the gaol, and was catered for at 3*d.* per diem per prisoner.

10. There are no prisons at Kintampo and Sunyani. Prisoners are confined in the guard-room of the company of the Gold Coast Regiment stationed at headquarters. They are engaged in sanitary work, water carrying, and in general clearing.

Obuassi Gaol.

11. This gaol is still a temporary structure of corrugated iron in which prisoners undergoing sentences of six months and under are confined. There is no accommodation for female prisoners, who are sent to Coomassie.

The staff consists of:—1 first-class warder, 2 second-class warders, and from 3 to 5 temporary warders, according to the number of prisoners.

12. The total number of prisoners for the year was 551, with a daily average of 31·117, made up as follows:—

Convicted	106
Debtors	44
For safe custody till trial, or for want of security	401
	551

13. The health of the prisoners was very good. There were no deaths, and only three admissions to hospital.

14. The prisoners were engaged in sanitary work, water carrying, road cleaning, and general clearing. The prisoners' rations were supplied by contract at the rate of 3*d.* per diem per prisoner.

XI.—CRIME.

1. 2,136 criminal cases were heard in the courts of Ashanti during 1907, as compared with 2,283 in 1906. There were 1,809 convictions recorded, against 1,443 in the previous year.

2. These were mainly accounted for under the following heads:—Public nuisance, breach of the peace, assault, drunkenness, larceny (Section 99), assault on police, selling spirits without a licence, drumming without permit, causing harm, and miscellaneous offences. Three cases of murder were heard, and in each instance the accused suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

3. The absence of serious crime in Ashanti during the year under review was most gratifying, and would indicate that the Ashanti has the makings of a law-abiding citizen and is yearly becoming more amenable to the British law administered in Ashanti.

XII.—PREVENTIVE SERVICE.

1. A European Inspector from the Customs Department, with powers to act as a District Commissioner of Ashanti within a distance of ten miles from the right bank of the Volta River between the Obosom and the Pru Rivers, is in charge of the Preventive Stations in Ashanti, which are situated on that portion of the Volta River which forms the boundary between Ashanti and German Togoland.

2. The sum of £585 10*s.* 11*d.* in ferry dues was collected at Kratchi during the year, against £789 19*s.* 10*d.* in 1906. £330 12*s.* 7*d.* was collected as customs dues. Smuggled goods were seized to the value of £246 16*s.* 6*d.*, and part of them, to the value of £95 14*s.*, were sold. The sum of £51 16*s.* was realized by canoe licences.

3. Messrs. Legge and Pett were successively in charge of the Preventive Stations during the year.

XIII.—POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

1. There are Post Offices at Coomassie, Obuassi, Akrokerri, Moinsi Hill, Kintampo, N'Koranza, and Atebubu: at the four

last mentioned offices stamps and postal orders can be purchased, but the latter cannot be cashed there.

2. A tri-weekly mail service is established to and from Coomassie and the coast, and mails are despatched to and from the Northern Territories, Kintampo, and Sunyani once a week.

3. The Post Office at Coomassie was removed in October from the offices hitherto occupied in the Fort to a new and more commodious building erected on the site of the old market place.

4. The following tables show the work done by the three principal Post Offices in Ashanti during 1907:—

COOMASSIE.

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Totals.
Letters and post cards	98,254	144,288	242,542
Book packets, &c.	29,330	22,324	51,654
Registered articles	20,232	6,926	27,158
Parcels	1,200	4,480	5,680
Totals	149,016	178,018	327,034

OBUASSI.

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Totals.
Letters and post cards	26,520	27,900	54,420
Book packets, &c....	576	14,640	15,216
Registered articles	3,433	1,874	5,307
Parcels	267	2,085	2,352
Totals	30,796	46,499	77,295

AKROKERRI.

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Totals.
Letters and post cards	2,183	3,991	6,174
Book packets, &c....	109	200	309
Registered articles	258	900	1,158
Parcels	99	606	705
Totals	2,649	5,697	8,346

The following table shows the Post Office Receipts for 1907, compared with those for 1906:—

Office.	Receipts, 1906.	Receipts, 1907.	Increase, 1907.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coomassie	13,469 12 2	15,917 19 6	2,448 7 4
Obuassi	12,199 10 5	13,873 9 10	1,673 19 5
Total	25,669 2 7	29,791 9 4	4,122 6 9

The Obuassi receipts include those of Akrokerri and Moinsi Hill.

5. The Post Office Savings Banks established at Coomassie and Obuassi had a total number of 139 depositors, with deposits to the value of £841 16*s.* 1*d.*—an increase of 65 depositors and £150 12*s.* 7*d.* deposits on the previous year.

6. There are telegraph stations at Obuassi, Moinsi Hill (Kwissa), Akrokerri, Coomassie, Kintampo, N'Koranza, and Atebubu, and a telegraph line from N'Koranza to Sunyani has been surveyed.

7. The following number of messages were received and forwarded:—

Office.	Received.	Forwarded.	Total.
Coomassie	15,879	17,187	33,066
Obuassi	6,339	13,750	20,089
Akrokerri	3,010	2,885	5,895
Totals	25,228	33,822	59,050

8. Mr. Bannerman took over the Coomassie Post Office from Mr. Jackson in February, and except from August to November, when his place was taken by Mr. Robinson, remained in charge during the year. Mr. Quartey was in charge of the Obuassi Post Office.

XIV.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

1. It is generally agreed that but for the depressed state of the home markets towards the end of the year, the trade returns for 1907 would have shown a very large general increase over 1906.

2. Coomassie is the chief trading centre of Ashanti, and eleven European firms are now established in the town, in addition to many native traders in produce.

3. The rubber season opened well, and, up to the end of September, prices at Coomassie ranged up to 1*s.* 10*d.* per pound. In October these fell to 1*s.* 6*d.*; in November to 1*s.* At the end of December there was a slight recovery, and up to 1*s.* 1½*d.* per lb. was obtainable. The new year, however, saw a relapse. The prices of cocoa and gum copal were also adversely affected.

4. In spite of these depressing conditions the amount of rubber shipped by rail from Ashanti showed only a slight decrease on that of the previous year—1,315 tons as compared with 1,354 tons—while 557 tons of cocoa were despatched, as against 148 tons in 1906. So far as can be ascertained 124½ tons of gum copal were despatched from Ashanti, the greater portion coming from the Southern Province.

5. Local trade increased about 50 per cent. as compared with that of 1906, and this accounts for the increased goods traffic on the Ashanti section of the railway of 4,494 tons.

6. The Commissioner of the Northern Province states that during the year the principal trading commodities taken north were salt, cloth, kerosine, matches, and enamelled basins, and, during the dry season, kola; while southwards the trade consisted of cattle, sheep, shea-butter, cowhides, Moshi cloths, and a little ivory and rubber. The Basel Mission Factory opened a small store at Kintampo during the year, and there appears to be no reason why other firms should not shortly follow its example, and for the town to become a flourishing trading centre.

7. The Acting Commissioner of the Western Province reports that an average quantity of rubber was tapped during the year, but that this product is undoubtedly becoming scarcer. He notes with satisfaction that two chiefs asked permission to stop all tapping of rubber trees on their lands for one year.

8. At the moment when the depressed state of the home markets began to make itself felt in Ashanti, a fetish priest at Tekiman announced the speedy advent of a new "god," who was to bring riches to the poor, and reduce the rich to abject poverty. At his coming the black man was to become white and the white man black. He also let it be known that any man found tapping rubber, farming, or hunting in the forest would, on the "god's" arrival, be turned into an antelope. Incredible as it may appear, this impostor succeeded in paralysing the local rubber trade. He was eventually arrested, and is at present detained in Coomassie. His "fetish" has fallen into disrepute, and is not now heard of.

9. During the year a large quantity of cocoa seed was introduced into the province, and nearly every village possesses its cocoa nursery.

10. The Acting Commissioner of the Southern Province reports as follows:—

"The trade of the Southern Province is carried on by itinerant traders, from whom it is impossible to get records, and by one European firm, namely, the Ashanti-Obuassi Trading Company, Limited, who have trading stores established at Obuassi, Sansu, and Akrokerri. I have, therefore, taken their returns for 1907 as a standard to go by, and I am indebted to the courtesy of the manager of the Ashanti-Obuassi Trading Company for the following informati n:—

"The volume of trade during 1907 compares very favourably with that of 1906, and a general improvement in every branch of the business has to be recorded for the year under review. Staple lines, such as salt, kerosine, soap, flour, &c., all show an improved sale, and this is also noticeable in the sales of cotton cloths, and handkerchiefs, as well as in other clothing. These facts show that people who formerly went to the coast towns for their supplies, are now finding that their wants can be supplied nearer home, and Obuassi is becoming more and more a trade centre for the province. In this respect the gum copal industry is probably an important factor, for the money paid out to the sellers of this produce during the year amounted to a large sum and no doubt benefited the trade generally.

"Turning to the purchase side of the business, an all-round improvement has not been maintained.

"*Rubber.*—A very considerable falling off is to be observed in the amount of rubber brought in for sale during 1907; the quantity in 1906 being upwards of 1,800 lbs. in excess of that purchased in 1907 (38,084 lbs.). This is in a great measure due to the dull and unsettled condition of the home markets, which consequently only admits of poor prices being offered to the producers, which are hardly sufficient to induce them to sell at present.

"*Cocoa.*—The 1906 cocoa year was practically nil, and it is gratifying to see that there were indications, during 1907, of Obuassi becoming more or less a centre of this industry as time goes on. The quantity of cocoa purchased during the year only amounted to 6,500 lbs., but it was nearly all offered for sale towards the end of the year, from which it may reasonably be assumed that the majority of the cocoa plantations in the province are only now beginning to bear fruit.

"*Gum Copal.*—This industry has maintained a steady improvement and large quantities have been brought during the year. The gum copal purchased at Obuassi in 1907 amounted to 3 cwts. short of 100 tons, as compared with 44 tons during 1906, but the increase was only to be expected as the industry was re-started in 1906 and naturally took some time to develop."

AGRICULTURE.

1. It is now beyond doubt that the Ashantis are seriously turning their attention to agriculture as a remunerative pursuit, and it is disappointing to record that the recent fall in the prices paid for cocoa and rubber has somewhat shaken their confidence. A native overseer, lent by the Agricultural Department, travelled through the provinces and lectured on the cultivation and preparation of cocoa and rubber at many of the principal villages. He was everywhere well received, and his lectures were listened to with the greatest interest.

2. The Acting Commissioner of the Southern Province reports as follows:—

"The keen desire shown by the natives of the Southern Province during 1907 to go in for agriculture is most pleasing to record. They have marked the year by the zeal they displayed to learn all they could about the cultivation of cocoa and rubber, and they were greatly encouraged by a series of lectures which Overseer Glover of the Agricultural Department delivered in all principal towns of the Southern Province on the growing, planting, and preparation of cocoa and rubber. These lectures were supplemented by practical instruction on their own farms by Mr. Glover, and the natives present were then not only taught how to tap rubber trees, but also how to ferment cocoa beans, and were shown the most effective means of exterminating the insects and parasites which attack their cocoa plantations and blight the young trees.

"Seven thousand and eighty-two rubber plants (*Funtumia elastica*) and one thousand cocoa plants were distributed amongst the chiefs of the Southern Province during 1907, most of which, I am informed, are doing very well. The number of plants distributed last year was somewhat restricted, owing to the unsettled condition of the Bekwai and Adansi Districts during the months preceding the Bekwai and Adansi boundary delimitation."

3. Great progress has been made at the Coomassie Agricultural Station, started in March, 1906. Twenty-three acres of Para (*Hevea braziliensis*), and four and a half acres of Funtum rubber (*Funtumia elastica*), were planted out at distances of 15 feet by 15 feet, and 10 feet by 10 feet, respectively, and are doing well.

4. The seeds of two varieties of cocoa and eight varieties of cotton were sown during the months of July, August, and September, as were shrubs and fibres of economic value. The nursery of $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres is well stocked, and includes 20,000 Funtumia, 4,000 Para, and 6,000 cocoa, in addition to many fruit tree seedlings.

5. Forty acres of land were cleared, and fifty planted.

6. During the year the station was successively in charge of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Gear.

XV.—RAILWAY.

1. The following statements show the goods and passenger traffic dealt with on the Ashanti section of the Government Railway during the year 1907, as compared with 1906:—

Goods Traffic.

Station.	1906.		1907.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Obuassi ...	2,477	16,528	3,495	16,182	1,018	—	—	346
Akrokerri ...	5,043	7,499	5,454	7,056	411	—	—	443
Bekwai ...	51	117	74	279	23	162	—	—
Eduadin ...	75	26	151	52	76	26	—	—
Coomassie ...	5,183	42,115	8,149	47,966	2,966	5,851	—	—
Total ...	12,829	66,285	17,323	71,535	4,494	6,039	—	789

All stations showed a greater tonnage handled than in 1906:—

Station.	1906.		1907.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Passengers.	Amount.	Passengers.	Amount.	Passengers.	Amount.	Passengers.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Obuassi ...	10,804	4,084	10,116	3,670	—	—	688	414
Akrokerri ...	3,697	820	3,526	839	—	19	171	—
Bekwai ...	925	204	1,230	296	305	92	—	—
Eduadin ...	384	69	484	85	100	16	—	—
Coomassie ...	5,202	3,981	6,462	4,249	1,260	268	—	—
Total ...	21,012	9,158	21,818	9,139	1,665	395	859	414

2. Free tickets by rail were issued from Coomassie to Obuassi to those consigning wagon loads of sheep and goats or cattle in lots of not less than six, and the same concession was granted at Coomassie to those consigning a ton or more of kola to Sekondi. This arrangement has given much satisfaction.

3. The railway conveyed free all the exhibits sent from Ashanti to the Sekondi Agricultural Show, and, in addition, free conveyance to and from the Show was given to 400 Ashantis, and reduced fares to passengers proceeding to the Show.

4. Although the total receipts from passenger traffic was slightly less than in 1906 (accounted for by the shortage in Obuassi passengers), there was a slight total increase of passengers.

5. About 1,500 trees were felled along the line of rail between Coomassie and Eduadin and about 760 near Obuassi.

XVI.—MINES.

1. During 1907 the amount of fine gold obtained by the mining and dredging companies was 77,658·2 ozs., valued at £329,892, as compared with 75,694·7 bullion ozs., valued at £294,687, obtained in 1906.

Company.	Fine ounces recovered.	Value.
(*a*) Mining—		£
Akrokerri Ashanti Mines, Ltd.	14,343·7	60,931
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd. ...	45,599·2	193,705
Ashanti Quartzite Company, Ltd.... ...	102·1	434
Imbatiem Goldfields, Ltd.	22·6	96
Obenemassi Goldfields, Ltd.	140·7	598
Sansu Mines, Ltd.	7,650·7	32,502
(*b*) Dredging—		
Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary	4,326·3	18,376
Ofin River Gold Estates, Ltd.	5,472·8	23,248
Total ... ... Ozs.	77,658·1	£ 329,890

2. The amount of labour employed by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was as follows:—

——	Surface.	Underground.	Total.
Europeans	108	46	154
Natives	2,056	1,058	3,114
Total labour employed	3,268	—	—

The above figures do not include labour employed by contractors for wood-cutting and other works.

3. With the exception of the annually recurring difficulty to obtain woodcutters during the rainy season, the supply of labour was plentiful throughout the year.

4. Sums amounting to £930 13*s.* 4*d.* were paid into the Treasury by holders of concessions in Ashanti, as rents due to native lessors, as compared with £2,122 paid in 1906.

The decrease is accounted for by the fact that in 1906 large sums representing arrears of rents due with respect to several concessions were paid in full.

5. The general health of European and native employés on the mines was good.

XVII.—EDUCATION.

1. As yet no Government School has been established in Ashanti, and education is in the hands of the Basel and Wesleyan Missions. During the year sites for school houses were acquired by the Roman Catholic Mission at Coomassie and Obuassi.

2. At the thirteen schools opened by the Basel Mission, 252 children were in attendance, as against 215 in 1906.

The distribution of these schools and the attendance were as follows:—

	Schools.	Attendance.
Central Province	11	214
Western Province	1	22
Southern Province	1	16

In addition to the above, one school in the Northern, and one in the Southern Province, were closed for want of teachers.

3. The Wesleyan Mission possesses seven schools in Ashanti, with twelve teachers and the following distribution and attendance:—

—	Attendance.			Total.	Average Attendance.
	Schools.	Boys.	Girls.		
Central Province ...	1	235	12	247	180
Western Province ...	1	41	15	56	38
Southern Province ...	5	156	17	173	113

—an increase of 58 scholars, as compared with 1906.

4. The instruction given in the Mission Schools is, of necessity, of an elementary character, and, as stated in last year's report, education among the Ashantis will progress but slowly, if at all, until Government undenominational schools have been established. The chiefs regard the Mission Schools as a means to an end, *i.e.*, the proselytism of the children, and fear their consequent repudiation of the chief's authority and their obligations to the tribal stool.

XVIII.—RELIGION.

1. The religious belief of the Ashantis must be termed "Animistic," in that they worship and endeavour to influence and conciliate an indefinite number of powerful, and mainly malignant, spirits who reside wherever the superstitious fears of the native locate them. The forest is full of them: rivers and prominent natural features such as hills, pools, rocks, &c., each has its supernatural occupant. It is, however, more generally known as "Fetishism," a term which, with "Ju-Ju," is now erroneously used to describe the religious belief of the natives of West Africa. The word "Fetish" has been adapted from the original Portuguese "feitiço," as applied to charms, amulets, and objects possessing magical potency.

2. I do not consider that idolatry exists in Ashanti. Objects of all description are venerated—not worshipped—as the abode of some powerful spirit who is to be propitiated and pleased by every means possible. An object into which such a spirit has entered becomes useless as soon as the occupant's inability to help the owner, or the greater power exercised over it by some other spirit, has been demonstrated. It is then either sold to Europeans as a "fetish" or thrown away, while its late owner obtains another abode for the new spirit.

3. Any person may possess his own particular spirit or "suman," in addition to his part ownership in that of his tribe or community which is known as "Busum." The possession of a "suman" is, however, attended with some danger, as it may turn and rend the owner, and it is of common occurrence to hear it said of a deceased person that "his suman has eaten him."

4. The veneration of ancestors is universal, and the chiefs and headmen of communities are supposed to consult with the shades of those who once occupied their stools, and to receive from them advice and guidance with regard to the welfare of their tribes or communities.

5. The Basel Mission, which is in charge of the Rev. A. P. Bauer, reports a membership of 372, as against 276 in 1906—

an increase of 96. The staff consists of the Rev. Lipps, one native minister, 14 catechists, and 3 teachers. The veteran missionary, Mr. Ramseyer, who has identified himself with the mission work in Ashanti, and who returned to the mission headquarters at Coomassie as a volunteer towards the end of 1906, continued his mission labours throughout the year.

6. The mission buildings on the newly acquired site at Coomassie were completed, and a large church is in course of construction.

7. The Wesleyan Mission reports a total membership of 443, an increase of 80 on last year's figures. The majority of the members live at Coomassie and Obuassi, and are Fantis or natives of other coast tribes, but there is an increase in the purely Ashanti membership.

8. Mohammedanism is looked down upon by the Ashantis, and I do not know of a single case of proselytism to this religion in the country. This does not, however, prevent the native Mohammedan from doing a flourishing trade in charms of all descriptions—from amulets to native cloths, on which has been inscribed hieroglyphics and texts from the Koran—for the prevention and cure of all evils.

XIX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

1. The following public works were commenced or completed during 1907 at Coomassie:—Post office, female prison, hospital and dispensary, European hospital, laundry in which to wash Europeans' clothes, and several buildings for the Gold Coast Regiment.

2. There was a plentiful supply of labour, but contractors are still somewhat difficult to obtain. Wages vary from 1*s.* per diem for unskilled to 3*s.* per diem for skilled labour.

3. The total expenditure under the vote for Public Works Extraordinary was £1,253 15*s.* 4*d.*

XX.—COOMASSIE TOWN.

1. The town continues to extend. The old thatch-covered houses are rapidly disappearing, their places being taken by solid "swish" (clay) buildings with iron or shingle roofs. Sixty such were constructed during the year.

2. The town ground rents received by the Government totalled the sum of £1,584 12*s.* 6*d.*, an increase of £229 19*s.* 2*d.* on the previous year. £525 1*s.* 4*d.* were received as ground rents from the Zongo (Mohammedan quarter)—an increase of £155 15*s.* 4*d.*; and the sum realized in slaughter-house fees amounted to £444 4*s.* 6*d.*—an increase of £63 3*s.* on 1906.

3. The population of Coomassie and the Zongo is 6,642—an increase of 362. Coomassie is, however, surrounded by a large number of small villages to which the Ashantis return in the evening, having disposed of their wares and transacted their business during the day. Thus the town, filled to overflowing in the morning, has, towards evening, a comparatively deserted appearance. The population of the Zongo is difficult to gauge owing to the roving tendencies of those who go to make it up, and who are, for the most part, traders from up country.

4. The market place brought in a revenue of £143 16*s.*, an increase of £10 16*s.*, from the seventy-eight stalls let to petty traders, and local food supplies were plentiful.

5. Road construction was continued during the year, as were the stone and concrete drains commenced in 1906. Much clearing was done and the forest lying to the south of the Fort is fast receding.

6. The stone-floored cattle compound was completed in the Zongo, and stone-floored washing places near the wells were constructed for the natives' use. A European laundry has also been built.

7. Under the superintendence of Dr. Rice, Senior Medical Officer, the swamp surrounding Coomassie has been practically drained, and, on land thus reclaimed, an excellent vegetable garden has been made by the same officer, which yields enough vegetables to supply the officials and European hospital.

8. A 13-hole golf course planted with doub grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), has been completed.

XXI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The Chief Commissioner visited the Northern Province in January, British Kratchi, and the eastern portion of the Central District in May, and the Western Province in September.

2. Major C. E. D. O. Rew was appointed a Provincial Commissioner of Ashanti, and Captains E. H. Hobart, H. A. Kortright, H. de C. Denny, and Messrs. P. A. H. Pott and G. Risely Griffith, District Commissioners.

3. The foundation stone of the three-storied building in course of erection by the Bank of British West Africa was laid by the Chief Commissioner on the 9th November.

4. The Sekondi Agricultural Show, held on the 29th and 30th November, was attended by the Chief Commissioner, who, accompanied by representative Ashanti chiefs and their followers (in all 400), arrived at Sekondi by special train on the eve of the opening of the show. Exhibits from Ashanti secured no less than 73 prizes: 24 firsts, 27 seconds, and 22 thirds, in addition to five of the special prizes offered. The report on the show drawn up by the Commissioner of the Western Province, contains the following:—"Summing up, the special feature of the show was the fine exhibit in all classes made by Ashanti; it appears evident that the chiefs there are more enterprising than those of the Colony."

5. A large four-dial clock subscribed to by his friends has been erected in a small tower over the post office in Coomassie as a memorial to the late Sir Donald Stewart, first Resident and Chief Commissioner of Ashanti, and a marble tablet recording the above will shortly be unveiled.

The following were the meteorological observations for the year:—

—	Average Maximum Temperature.	Average Minimum Temperature.	Rainfall.
			ins.
Coomassie	85·18	70·61	63·32
Obuassi	87·	67·	75·24

C. H. ARMITAGE,
Acting Chief Commissioner of Ashanti.

Coomassie,
28th March, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey (1904–5).
47	Do.	Do. (1905–6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 603.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 564.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
July, 1909.

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No. 603.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 564.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Accra,
13 May, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a comprehensive report on Ashanti for the year 1908 by the Chief Commissioner.

2. The further improvement which is reported to have taken place in the social condition of the Ashantis, and the gradual reformation of the Courts of the native chiefs are matters for congratulation. The Chief Commissioner and the Administrative Staff have succeeded in winning a large measure of the confidence, obedience, and loyalty of this people, whose growing prosperity should be a material pledge for the continued peaceful development of the Dependency.

3. The financial position of Ashanti is, however, unsatisfactory, and the decline in its revenue and trade during the year under review is disappointing.

Out of 21 heads of revenue, 16 show decreases amounting collectively to £12,219, and five heads show increases amounting to only £128.

The receipts from passenger traffic on that portion of the Gold Coast Railway lying in Ashanti increased by £440; but the goods traffic decreased by 4,253 tons, valued at £7,416.

The revenue, which realized a sum of £37,248 in the year 1907, has fallen to £27,908, a decrease of £9,340, of which £4,680 is accounted for by the abolition of caravan tolls.

On the other hand, the total expenditure amounted to £98,580, making a deficit on the year of £70,672, including £45,823 on account of military expenditure.

4. It was anticipated that when the administration of Ashanti was reorganized in the year 1907, its revenues would expand as the country was opened up by peaceful penetration; and it

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is disappointing, and even a source of some anxiety, that neither commercially nor financially have these expectations been realized in the past year. It may be necessary to consider, in the near future, whether the inhabitants of Ashanti, who are reported by the Chief Commissioner to possess a plentiful food supply, to be receiving high wages for their produce, and high wages for their labour, should be called upon to contribute a larger proportion to the cost of administration.

5. The most important event of the year under review was the successful Agricultural Show held in December at Coomassie, where a large concourse of chiefs and people assembled bringing exhibits from the Colony, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories. This bringing together of representatives of various tribes, separated by considerable distances and by diversity of tongues, should disseminate a knowledge of the requirements of European markets, and exercise a civilizing influence in the outlying portions of Ashanti and the Northern Territories.

I have, &c.,

H. BRYAN,

Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON ASHANTI FOR 1908.

FINANCIAL.

The total Revenue collected in Ashanti during 1908 was £27,908 17*s.* 6*d.*, as against £37,248 18*s.* 4*d.* in 1907 and £32,328 17*s.* 10*d.* in 1906.

Increases, amounting in all to £128, are shown under five heads, the principal of which are: Sale of Stamps, &c. (£89 8*s.* 7*d.*), and Postal Subsidy from Akrokerri Mines (£25 0*s.* 0*d.*).

Decreases, amounting in all to £12,219, appear under sixteen heads, the principal being: Mining Royalties (£5,187 11*s.* 0*d.*), Caravan Tolls (£4,681 12*s.* 6*d.*), Ferry Tolls (£558 18*s.* 7*d.*), Court Fines and Fees (£472 17*s.* 9*d.*), Rents from Government Lands (£404 19*s.* 3*d.*), Spirit Licences (£240 0*s.* 0*d.*), and Market and Slaughter House Fees (£221 2*s.* 6*d.*).

The Revenue and Expenditure of Ashanti for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1904	18,964	2	11	94,185	8	3
1905	17,532	0	0	90,052	4	9
1906	32,328	17	10	85,125	6	4
1907	37,248	18	4	82,302	13	1
1908	27,908	17	6	98,580	6	1

The cause of these heavy deficits is partly due to necessary military expenditure—Ashanti's share of which for 1908 amounted to £45,823 0*s.* 0*d.*

The tolls collected at outstations on passing caravans were abolished from the 1st August, as it was considered that with the increased familiarity of the north-country trader with Ashanti, he no longer required the safeguard afforded by the Government receipt, and that the tolls might, therefore, prove a hindrance to trade. The actual loss in 1908 to the revenue of Ashanti was approximately £4,680 0*s.* 0*d.*

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

It is very difficult to estimate the value of imports into Ashanti for the year under review, owing to the amount of merchandise entering from the Colony and from adjoining territories, by carrier transport.

From figures kindly supplied by the various trading firms, the value of the imports from Europe may, at a low computation, be reckoned at £250,000, including freight and duty.

2. The decrease of goods handled by the railway, 4,473 tons (*vide* General Observations "Railways"), can be accounted for by a falling off in the bulk of rubber exported, and by the gradual reduction of the operations of the Akrokerri Mines.

The imports of the principal trading firms, however, consisting of articles mainly for native consumption, showed a decided increase over the aggregate imports of the previous year.

3. The main European articles of imports are cotton goods, haberdashery, hardware, glass, tobacco, soap, salt, provisions, spirits, and gunpowder.

4. During the year 544 tons of smoked or "dried" fish were imported from the Coast into Ashanti. This article of diet is much sought after, especially by the Coast people living inland, and the demand for it is steadily increasing. Unfortunately, the supply does not appear to be equal to the demand.

5. From the Northern Territories, Ashanti imports some 20,000 head of cattle, 80,000 sheep and goats, 5,000 loads of shea-butter, 2,500 loads of Dawa-Dawa (an article of diet), besides cloths and various articles of native manufacture.

The cattle should average £3 a head, representing a value of £60,000; the sheep at 5s. a head would equal £20,000; the shea-butter, say £5,000; Dawa-Dawa, say £5,000, or a total import value of £100,000.

This is a low computation and can be safely relied upon as a minimum.

6. Of the cattle, 2,168 were exported to the Colony by rail. It is estimated that Coomassie, Obuasi, and their environs accounted for 10,000, leaving under 8,000 to be absorbed by the rest of Ashanti.

A certain percentage of sheep and goats, of shea-butter and Dawa-Dawa find their way out of Ashanti again, so that the re-export of Northern Territories imports becomes an asset of Ashanti.

Exports.

The principal exports of Ashanti are: rubber, cocoa, kola-nuts, and gum copal; and cattle, sheep, shea-butter and Dawa-Dawa in transit.

Owing to poor prices, to an epidemic of small-pox, and, perhaps, to the exhaustion of a number of trees, the amount of rubber exported during the year showed a decrease of 586 tons over 1907—729 tons against 1,315—including weight of packages.

Prices ranged from 1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb.—the latter price being touched in the month of November. The year opened at 1*s.* 4*d.* a lb. and closed at 1*s.* 6*d.* The value of rubber exported amounted to about £90,000.

A large increase in the cocoa yield was realized in 1908. From 148 tons exported in 1906, the figures jumped to 557 tons in 1907, and 751 in 1908.

Total value of export about £50,000.

The bulk of the kola nuts is exported to the north, east, and west by native traders, who purposely journey down to Ashanti to procure this coveted article of diet. It is difficult to estimate the quantity that leaves Ashanti by head-loads, but the large proportions of this trade are only just beginning to be realized. The railway carried as much as 539 tons during 1908—a considerable increase on previous years. The average price was 5*s.* per 1,000 nuts, or, roughly speaking, £10 a ton.

It is estimated that four-fifths of the imports from the Northern Territories are paid for in kola—this would mean that Ashanti sends at least £80,000 worth of the nut to the north—besides this, over £5,000 worth was shipped to Lagos, to which must be added the export by head-loads to the Colony, Ivory Coast, and Togoland. It is no exaggeration to say, therefore, that the kola trade means an income of some £90,000 a year to Ashanti.

A total of 125 tons of gum copal would seem to have been exported during the year, as against 100 tons in 1907. Average price 3d. per lb. Total value estimated at £3,500.

Twenty-two tons of maize were exported from Ashanti by rail.

This industry is, as yet, in an incipient stage, and would quickly develop were it not for the difficulty of clearing the Ashanti bush.

SUMMARY.

Imports from the Northern Territories:—

	£
20,000 cattle at £3	60,000
80,000 sheep and goats at 5*s.*	20,000
Shea-butter, Dawa-Dawa, native cloths, &c. ...	20,000
	£100,000
From Europe:—	
General merchandise	250,000
	£350,000

2. Ashanti pays for the above imports as follows:—

		£
Kola to Northern Territories	£80,000	
„ Colonies and shipped ...	10,000	
		90,000
Rubber		90,000
Cocoa		50,000
Cattle and sheep (re-exported)		10,000
Gum copal		3,500
Miscellaneous		6,500
		£250,000

To which must be added the amount earned as wages on the mines—roughly estimated at ... £100,000

Giving Ashanti a total spending power of ... ... 350,000 or an amount equivalent to the value of the imports.

3. The above figures must not be taken as accurate; they represent rather the proportional distribution of wealth and values and the existing commercial development of the country.

4. Taking into consideration the lower prices paid for produce, the decreased export of rubber, and the adverse influence of the small-pox epidemic, the general condition of trade for the year may be deemed satisfactory, and shows a decided increase in the aggregate.

Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

During 1908 the amount of fine gold obtained by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was 62,489·636 ounces, valued at £265,468; as compared with 77,658·2 ounces, valued at £329,892 in 1907.

Company.	Fine Ounces Recovered.	Value.
(A.) Mining.		£
Akrokerri Ashanti Mines, Limited	14,533·820	61,739
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited ...	37,146·000	157,800
Ashanti Quartzite Company, Limited	784·166	3,329
(B.) Dredging.		
Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Limited ...	5,116·143	21,733
Ofin River Gold Estates, Limited	4,909·636	20,865
Total	62,489·765	265,466

2. The amount of labour employed by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was as follows:—

—	Surface.	Mine.	Total.
Europeans	117	25	142
Natives	1,911	1,341	3,252
Totals	2,028	1,366	3,394

exclusive of contract labour for timber cutting and other extraneous works.

3. During the year a considerable amount of prospecting work was carried out on the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation property. A lode formation known as "Justices" was discovered, and the results of development work have so far proved satisfactory in every way.

4. The Obenemassi Goldfields Auxiliary surrendered their concession in December, and the Akrokerri-Ashanti Mines, Limited, decreased their staff towards the end of the year.

Manufactures.

The principal handicrafts of Ashanti are: pottery ware, the weaving of cloths, mat and fan making, and working in gold and other metals.

2. The Ashantis are expert weavers. They obtain imported yarn and weave a variety of characteristic cloth of astonishing durability. Their silk cloths are conspicuously fine.

Fisheries.

The only example of the fishing industry in Ashanti is to be found at the Sacred Lake (Busumtchwi), in the Southern Province—where the inhabitants spend their time catching and curing the plentiful lake fish (a small perch).

2. These fish are greatly esteemed by the Ashantis who, even if living on the Coast, will endeavour to obtain these lake fish in preference to salt-water fish. A large trade is done in lake fish with the Ashantis generally—but more as a toothsome luxury than as an article of diet, for, as has been already stated under imports, a large quantity of dried sea fish is imported into Ashanti.

AGRICULTURE.

The extraordinary spread of the cultivation of economic products throughout Ashanti is all the more gratifying as the Ashantis cannot be said to have been an agricultural people in the past. Satisfied with a sufficiency of food-stuffs (cultivated generally by slave labour) for their material wants, their thoughts were occupied with matters relating to warfare and conquest, and they gave little heed to questions affecting the agricultural development of their country. This willing and ready adoption of new methods under varied conditions speaks volumes for the intelligence, sound sense, and practicalness of the race.

2. A healthy stimulus was given to the cultivation of economic products, in the shape of an Agricultural Show, held in Coomassie in the month of December. Emulation was keen among producers, and a surprisingly high standard was attained by many of the exhibits. Allusion is made to this Show under the heading "Events of the Year."

3. The Agricultural Station at Coomassie affords an object lesson to natives—many of whom evince deep interest in the methods of scientific planting. Ten and a half more acres were planted with Para rubber (*Hevea braziliensis*). A quantity of the two-year old plants have already attained a height of 23 feet—a promising result.

Twenty-six additional acres were planted with the *Funtumia elastica*, which plant, being indigenous to the country, thrives excellently.

Quantities of seedlings were distributed to the natives free of charge.

4. The Commissioner of the Southern Province reports as follows:—

"The natives of this Province are, in addition to extensive farming operations in which maize, plantains, yams, cassada, and cocoa yams are cultivated, engaged in the rubber and cocoa industries, and were the first tribes in Ashanti to plant out rubber trees supplied to them by the Government.

"During the year 5,757 plants of *Funtumia elastica* and 1,861 cocoa plants were distributed among the chiefs. The cultivation of cocoa has been taken up everywhere, and practically every village has now one or more cocoa plantations in its vicinity."

5. The Commissioner of the Western Province says:—

"In Borumfu, Ahafo, and Wam, particularly, cocoa has been extensively planted.

"The Province was visited by Mr. Martinson, who reported generally on the richness of the soil and the good prospects for cocoa and rubber cultivation.

"Maize is extensively grown in the north of the Province.

"The maize is of good quality, and samples from Sunyani carried off the three prizes in the Coomassie Agricultural Show.

"Without transport facilities maize cannot be expected to become a lucrative article of commerce. Native cotton is grown round Wenchi and in Jaman. Experimental bags of cotton seed were distributed at Wenchi, but a report on the quality has not yet been obtained.

"Fibre and gum copal can be obtained in the Province, and there should be an opening for development of piassava, plantain, and pineapple fibre as articles of export.

"Owing, however, to the great superiority of rubber as a source of wealth to the producer and the amount of it in the Province, the natives are apt to neglect less lucrative sources of cultivation, and until the inauguration of cheap and rapid transport facilities, there is little chance of extensive development of the cheaper articles of commerce.

"A few Para rubber trees planted experimentally at Sunyani in 1907 are healthy and growing well.

"The rubber is generally of bad quality owing to faulty preparation. Attempts have been made with some success to interest the natives in new methods of coagulation of rubber latex by infusion of 'Bauhinia Reticulata' leaves and by steam. A latex known to the natives as 'Diecha,' which has the power of almost instantaneously coagulating the latex of *Funtumia elastica* cold and undiluted, was shown by the Chief of Nkwanta in December, and is now being experimented upon by the Agricultural Department.

"It is hoped that in 1909 an improvement in quality will be noticed.

"The chiefs generally are, I think, beginning to show more interest in the preservation of *Funtumia elastica* trees. I recently had a case before me in which one chief issued an order to his rubber camp for all tapping to cease for two months, on account of the trees suffering through want of rain. Although this order was not generally obeyed, its issue was distinctly a sign that some thought for the trees is beginning to creep into the minds of the landowners, and was satisfactory."

6. A Native Instructor of the Agricultural Department travelled extensively, lecturing and giving the natives practical demonstrations with regard to the planting and care of cocoa and to the fermentation of the bean—as well as to the coagulation of the various rubber latices.

Land Grants.

Of the unlapsed concessions in Ashanti granted prior to 1908, 12 were granted for mining, 20 for mining and timber, and four for agricultural purposes.

2. During the year one mining concession and three agricultural concessions were taken up. The total amount of rent on concessions received during the year on behalf of the native lessors was £1,087.

3. The average value of mining land is at the rate of £12 per concession of five square miles until mining operations commence, when a mining rent of £300 is usually payable.

4. For agricultural purposes land was taken up at an average rental of £1 per 150,000 square feet; but this price will doubtless augment as agriculture becomes more appreciated and esteemed by the natives—and the value of land enhanced thereby.

LEGISLATION.

Of the four Ordinances expressly enacted for Ashanti during 1908, the most important were:—

(*a*) "The Ashanti Native Customs Ordinance, 1908," granting the Chief Commissioner powers to make Rules with regard to the celebration of Native Customs, Rites, Ceremonies, and Worship. This measure was necessitated by the incursion of a new Fetish that was found both impoverishing and dangerous to the country. Allusion to this "cult" will be found under the heading "Religion."

(*b*) The Ashanti Administration (Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1908—by which the Chief Commissioner

is empowered to determine whether the various tribes shall pay "collective" or "individual" Spirit Licences—the object being the gradual substitution of the latter for the former.

The following Rules under Section 27 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance of 1902 were made by the Chief Commissioner, with the approval of the Governor:—

(1) Rules with respect to Ferries.

(2) Rules with respect to Appeals from Native Tribunals. The latter were needed to define a uniform procedure throughout Ashanti in respect of appeals to the Chief Commissioner from decisions given by chiefs.

The following Orders came into force during the year:—

(1) Order by the Governor directing the form of Summonses to be issued by the Treasurer under Section 27 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance.

(2) Order by the Governor appointing the officer for the time being acting as Secretary for Mines to perform the duties imposed on the Treasurer by the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance with respect to the assessment of duties on profit.

(3) Order by the Governor amending Rules with respect to Timber Concessions.

(4) Order by the Chief Commissioner abolishing the collection of Caravan Tolls in Ashanti. (Referred to under *Financial*).

(5) Order by the Governor with respect to the registration of instruments affecting lands in Ashanti.

EDUCATION.

Both Primary and Secondary Education still remain in the hands of the Wesleyan and Basel Missions.

2. The former numbers eight schools with a pupil attendance of 499—an increase of 23 on 1907.

3. The Head of the Wesleyan Mission reports as follows:—

"The Government Inspector's report of the Coomassie Day School shows a marked improvement on 1907. More children were presented for examination and passed and the grants earned are higher. A building has been erected for a technical school, which we hope will be extended during the year. Agricultural training is also given, the teachers attending a course of instruction at the Agricultural Station during December."

4. The Basel Mission numbers 22 schools, with a pupil attendance of 513—an increase of 261 on last year.

5. The Roman Catholic Mission has commenced the building of a church and school house at Obuasi.

6. A few Mohammedan schools are dotted about the country, but the pupil attendance is poor and the teaching still more so.

A certain amount of agricultural education is imparted to natives at the Coomassie Station by the staff of the Agricultural Department, where regular courses of instruction are held. In addition to this, a trained Native Instructor spends most of his time travelling about the country teaching the people how to care for their cocoa and rubber trees and how to cope with pests and disease.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Good European and native hospitals are in existence in Coomassie and Obuasi. Kintampo and Sunyani can as yet only boast of primitive swish buildings, which are set aside for native patients.

The attendance at these hospitals during 1908 was as follows:—

—	Coomassie.	Obuasi.	Kintampo.	Sunyani.
European Officials	34	5	—	—
„ Non-officials... ...	13	20	—	—
Native Officials	—	—	3	—
„ Non-officials	799	61	139	185

The medical staff in charge of these hospitals included one Senior Medical Officer, and four medical officers.

Ashanti does not yet possess or require any asylums, poor-houses, or reformatories.

The Coomassie and Obuasi Savings Banks showed a total number of 159 depositors, with deposits to the value of £876 4*s*. 0*d*.—an increase on 1907 of 20 depositors with £34 8*s*. 1*d*.

2. The banks have, so far, only been patronized by the Coast artizan class, composed of people who understand and appreciate the advantages held out by them to petty depositors. The Ashanti and up-country trader, on the other hand, have not yet realized the great privilege of being able to deposit their accumulations in safety, and still maintain suspicious attitude towards what still appears an inexplicable system to them.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The strength of the Police Force on the 31st December, 1908, numbered 84, as against 49 in 1907, distributed as follows:—

—	Assist. C. O. P.	Supt.	N.C.O's.	Constables.	Escort Police.		Total.
					N.C.O's.	Cons.	
Coomassie ...	1	1	6	29	3	17	57
Obuasi ...	—	—	4	12	1	8	25
Sunyani ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Kintampo ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total ...	1	1	10	43	4	25	84

2. This large increase was rendered necessary by the extended area demanding police supervision, and by the increased police work exacted by the rapid development of Coomassie and Obuasi.

3. The police effected 609 arrests in Coomassie, as against 864 in 1907; and 575 at Obuasi against 909 in the former twelve months—a total decrease of 589— a conclusive argument in support of the salutary results brought about by the increase of the force.

4. The new police barracks at Coomassie (capable of accommodating one Superintendent and 52 non-commissioned officers and men) were completed and taken over for occupation in October, 1908.

5. The mining companies employed four corporals and three constables of the "Mines Police." Two sergeants and seven constables of the "Railway Police" were detailed for railway work.

6. The efficiency and general conduct of the police in Ashanti were good.

A radical change was effected in prison management in Ashanti—both the Coomassie and Obuasi Gaols having been placed under the direct control of the Assistant Commissioner of Police since the beginning of 1908.

2. *Coomassie Gaol.*—The staff consists of one Chief Warder, five permanent and 12 temporary warders. A matron is provided for the female prison.

Military escorts were dispensed with, and all extramural work is now supervised by the prison staff.

3. The total number of prisoners admitted during the twelve months was 709, against 691 in 1907, with a daily average of 87, made up as follows:—

Convicted	369
Debtors	74
Remanded, Political prisoners awaiting trial or detained, for want of security	266
	709

Of the above, 28 were females—12 convicted; 12 debtors, and four detained for safe custody.

4. The general health of the prisoners is reported as excellent; each prisoner had an average space of 308 cubic feet during the hours of rest.

5. Offences against prison discipline numbered 317, as against 158 for the previous year. The increase was due to more thorough supervision.

6. Six executions were carried out during the year. Seven prisoners escaped, two of whom were recaptured.

7. Prisoners sentenced to over one and under three years' imprisonment are no longer transferred to the Coast, but are now kept in Coomassie, where their labour is much needed. Prisoners are engaged on sanitary work throughout the town, road-making, water-carrying, and general clearing.

8. Food is purchased in the open market and cooked within the gaol. The cost of rations for each prisoner averages 3*d.* per diem.

9. *Obuasi Gaol.*—The gaol is still a temporary structure of corrugated iron. Female prisoners—a rare occurrence— are sent to Coomassie.

The staff consists of:—

1 first class warder.
3 second class warders.
4 temporary warders.

The daily average of prisoners was 28:—

Convicted	112
Debtors	43
Safe custody, or for want of security ...	487
	642

10. The health of the prisoners—in spite of the temporary nature of the gaol building—was good. The admissions to hospital were 25, an average of 1·12 per cent.

11. The prisoners were engaged on sanitary work; cleaning, keeping roads in repair, and general clearing.

Criminal Cases.

The following table shows the number of criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner	81	18	62	1	—
Cantonment Magistrate ...	704	97	605	—	2
District Commissioner, Central Province.	67	11	46	7	3
Commissioner, Northern Province.	109	19	89	—	1
Commissioner, Western Province	68	16	47	1	4
Commissioner, Southern Province.	954	7	869	64	14
British Krachi	60	3	56	—	1
Total	2,043	171	1,774	73	25

2. These figures compare favourably with those of 1907 and 1906—the totals for which were 2,136 and 2,283 respectively. Total convictions 1,774, as against 1,809 in 1907.

3. Petty larceny and embezzlement accounted for the majority of the cases. Charges of assault (petty), breaches of the peace, and public nuisance were also common. Five murder cases were tried and six accused suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

4. The absence of serious crimes in Ashanti is most gratifying and speaks well for the conduct of the Ashantis. Most of the police cases are due to the alien population frequenting the large trading and mining centres.

5. The following civil cases were disposed of during the year:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	18
Cantonment Magistrate's Court	573
District Commissioner, Central Province	166
Commissioner, Northern Province ...	102
Commissioner, Western Province ...	154
Commissioner, Southern Province ...	336
	1,349

6. These figures when compared with those of the previous year show a decrease of 18.

7. The Concessions Court held two sittings, at which two certificates of validity were issued and a third was varied.

VITAL STATISTICS.

No reliable census of the population of Ashanti has yet been compiled, although steps have been taken to ascertain, as accurately as possible, the numbers of each of the various native tribes living in Ashanti.

The Ashantis themselves are roughly put down at 500,000 souls, and this number must, perforce, satisfy statisticians until the next census has been taken.

The number of Europeans resident in Ashanti during the year was 287.

Of these 156 were officials, 8 were missionaries, 121 were merchants, and 2 were wives of officials.

The daily average of Europeans in Coomassie was 29 officials and 20 non-officials.

Two hundred and twelve Europeans visited Coomassie during the year. Of these 46 came during the Agricultural Show held in the month of December.

The health of the Europeans stationed in Ashanti was good. No death occurred among officials, only one was invalided. Two deaths occurred among non-officials and 4 were invalided.

Invaliding-rate for officials	...	3·8 per cent.
Death-rate for non-officials	...	1·5 „
Invaliding-rate, non-officials	...	3·0 „

I fear that owing to epidemics of small-pox the same cannot be said of the health enjoyed by the natives.

The Commissioner of the Western Province reports:—

> "Wenchi and neighbourhood were visited in March and April by a severe epidemic of small-pox. The insanitary condition of the "Zongo" at Wenchi encouraged the disease, and it is estimated that over 100 people died there. Dr. Sweetlove, medical officer, on special duty, visited Wenchi in May and carried out extensive vaccinations. The disease afterwards spread and became epidemic in Tekiman and the neighbouring villages. At the close of the year Tekiman was in a very bad state, and it was estimated that upwards of 100 people had died there.
>
> "It is to be regretted that the natives, when a case of small-pox first appears in a town, inoculate themselves with the disease itself, and by so doing probably spread it. They insist that few, if any, persons so inoculated, succumb to the effects, and all are subsequently immune from the disease. The custom appears to be an ancient one, and everything has been done to discourage it."

This native system of vaccination is highly interesting, although more calculated to spread than to exterminate the epidemic.

The Commissioner of the Northern Province says:—

> "Health generally good. There was an outbreak of small-pox in the Banda country lasting through October, November, and December, which disappeared with the burning of the grass. The number of deaths was approximately from 100 to 130, spread over a scattered population of some 5,000."

Owing to the presence of bubonic plague in Accra precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease into Ashanti—successfully so, be it added. A few suspected cases, which happily proved not to be those of plague, were kept under observation in an isolation camp.

The sanitation of the two principal towns—Coomassie and Obuasi—continues to be fairly good. Permanent dust-bins have been erected in Coomassie and are being constructed in Obuasi and Kintampo.

An incinerator has been built in Coomassie, street drains extended, and swamps drained.

Sanitary Committees have been appointed at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Kintampo, but the ordinary native villages leave much to be desired from a sanitary point of view. The chiefs have been given a few simple rules to follow and will be held responsible for their enforcement in their respective villages.

The water supply at Coomassie and at the out-stations is excellent. Pumps are being fitted to all the wells in Coomassie, and public latrines were increased in number.

Rainfall.—Coomassie 59·62 inches, as compared with 63·32 in 1907, and 75·0 in 1906; Obuasi 78·13, as against 75·24 in 1907, and 71·70 in 1906.

Temperature.

	Average minimum.		Average minimum.
Coomassie	87·25	...	69·40
Obuasi	87·50	...	66·08

Direction of Wind.—Prevailing wind in Coomassie, south-west.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONES.

Post Offices are now opened at the Moinsi Hill, Kintampo, Nkoranza, Attabubu, and Sunyani, besides Coomassie, Obuasi, and Akrokerri.

2. Mails are received and despatched daily between the Coast and Obuasi, and four times a week between the Coast and Coomassie.

Mails are likewise despatched and received once a week between Coomassie and the Northern Territories, Kintampo, and Sunyani.

3. The three principal post offices in Ashanti (*i.e.*, Coomassie, Obuasi, and Akrokerri) handled the following mail matter:—

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and post-cards	120,787	57,461	178,248
Book packets, &c.	26,808	31,293	58,101
Registered articles	23,162	7,967	31,129
Parcels	1,244	6,403	7,647
Totals	172,001	103,124	275,125

4. Post office receipts were as follows:—

—	Receipts, 1907.	Receipts, 1908.	Increase.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Coomassie	15,917 19 6	17,666 14 11	1,748 15 5
Obuasi	13,873 9 10	14,543 0 5	669 10 7
Total	29,791 9 4	32,209 15 4	2,418 6 0

5. There are at present eight telegraph stations in Ashanti, *i.e.*, at Coomassie, Obuasi, Moinsi Hill, Akrokerri, Kintampo, Nkoranza, Attabubu, and Sunyani.

6. The following number of messages was received and forwarded during the year:—

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Coomassie	18,600	16,000	34,600
Obuasi	9,750	5,8.8	15,578
Akrokerri	3,776	4,269	8,045
Totals	32,126	26,097	58,223

RELIGION.

There is little or nothing to add under this heading to the information to be found in former annual reports (notably those for 1906 and 1907) as far as the creed of the Ashantis is concerned. A blending of "Animism" and ancestor worship appears to satisfy the spiritual needs of this people—although the favourable eye with which they generally view Christianity may reasonably argue a feeling of enquiry and greater and expanding spiritual desires.

2. Allusion was made in the annual report for last year to the introduction into Ashanti of a new cult known as "Abirewa," and a note was made of the astonishing rapidity with which it literally permeated throughout the land. The *raison d'être* of the cult, and, indeed, the secret of its extraordinary success, can be explained by its "witch finding" potentialities.

Witchcraft has been called "part and parcel of savage life," and it will for ever remain so, owing to the conviction of the ignorant that all the untoward circumstances of life are due to the direct influence of malign spirits.

Unfortunately, however, these "witch finding" creeds carry with them a greater or lesser number of undesirable, if not criminal, practices.

The priestcraft, moreover, invariably gains an unwholesome ascendency over the people—even to the point of the subversion of lawful and recognized institutions. On these scores the all prevailing influence of "Abirewa" became both a political and social menace, and the fiat for the suppression of the rites and ceremonies, and, indeed, of the practice in any shape or form of this upstart cult, went forth in the month of August.

It is most gratifying to report that the orders of the Government were implicitly obeyed, and that recourse to coercion was in no single case necessary. Perhaps the most remarkable phase of this interesting episode was the transient nature of the success enjoyed by the new worship—for it died with even greater rapidity than that with which it reached full proportions.

3. The Basel Mission reports an increase of 160 adherents, making a total of 532, against 372 in 1907. These figures do not include converts in Ashanti-Akim (Eastern portion) who should, officially speaking, be reckoned as forming part of the Church in Ashanti. Their numbers bring the total membership to 1,496 souls. The staff consisted of two European missionaries, two native ministers, and twenty-three agents.

4. The Wesleyan Mission reports a total membership (communicants and probationers) of 1,186—being an increase of 743 on last year.

The staff of the Mission consisted of one European missionary, one native minister, and eighteen agents.

5. The total Christian population of Ashanti may be put down as 2,682, out of a population of about half a million souls.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year was full of interest from a political point of view, several matters of prime importance having called for decision.

Among native affairs may be mentioned the death of Asare Amponsen, Omanhin of Juabin, on the 13th of January, 1908, and of Kojo Konkroma, the Omanhin of Tekiman, in July.

Yaw Mĕnsah, ex-Chief of Akropong, who for years abused the powers conferred upon him, was destooled for extortion and general misconduct.

Perhaps the most pregnant question during the year was the release of the political prisoners from Elmina Gaol; eight of the twenty-four were allowed to return to their homes and were heartily welcomed by their relatives; the remainder are now confined to certain towns or areas, but are otherwise free to come and go as they please.

Towards the end of the year, a highly successful Agricultural Show was held in Coomassie. The measure of attainment could not be gauged by the intrinsic value of the exhibits alone, good as these undoubtedly were; for the inestimable boon conferred on the country generally by the meeting, in amity, of hereditary enemies, by the casting aside of ancient feuds, by the ready recognition of new methods and ideas, and by the acceptance of the civilizing and peaceful influence of trade, have proved invaluable for the administrative and economic development of the country.

Railways, Roads, and Canals.

The Ashanti section of the Gold Coast Government Railway showed a falling off in "goods" and a slight increase in "passenger traffic."

The following tables give the respective values:—

Goods Traffic.

—	1907.		1908.		Increase		Decrease.	
	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru ...	56	89	181	213	125	124	—	—
Obuasi	3,495	16,182	3,448	16,611	—	429	47	—
Akrokerri ...	5,454	7,056	2,416	3,542	—	—	3,038	3,514
Bekwai	74	279	169	855	95	576	—	—
Eduadin ...	151	52	82	46	—	—	69	6
Coomassie ...	8,149	47,966	6,830	42,941	—	—	1,319	5,025
Total ...	17,379	71,624	13,126	64,208	220	1,129	4,473	8,545

Passenger Traffic.

—	1907.		1908.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru ...	1,209	211	1,299	238	90	27	—	—
Obuasi	10,116	3,670	9,763	3,519	—	—	353	151
Akrokerri ...	3,526	839	4,623	1,117	1,097	278	—	—
Bekwai	1,230	296	1,611	400	381	104	—	—
Eduadin ...	481	85	466	94	—	9	18	—
Coomassie ...	6,462	4,249	6,731	4,422	269	173	—	—
Total ...	23,027	9,350	24,493	9,790	1,837	591	371	151

The total tonnage of imports into Ashanti by rail was 9,650, and 3,476 exports. Total passengers booked to Ashanti, 12,484, realizing £5,302; and 12,009 from Ashanti, realizing £4,488.

The General Manager reports that during the year considerable additional facilities for dealing with merchandise were arranged at Coomassie, and that they are appreciated generally by the public.

A considerable number of passengers availed themselves of the additional trains at reduced fares run to Coomassie for the Agricultural Show, and the railway conveyed all exhibits free of charge, including a magnificent collection of timber, besides furniture and gold ornaments. Free conveyance to Coomassie was arranged for the various chiefs and followers attending the Show from the different stations, and after the Show close on 230 Northern Territories chiefs and people were conveyed free to Obuasi and back.

The train service was altered, provisionally, in March, to better meet mail requirements, and from the commencement of June an additional train was run through from Sekondi to Coomassie on Tuesdays.

Road work was continued throughout the year, radiating from Coomassie towards the north-west and east of the country—the former to tap the rubber centre, the latter to do likewise to the large cocoa-producing areas.

Immigration and Emigration.

Little or no emigration from Ashanti may be said to exist. The traders who find their way to the Colony are insignificant in numbers. The Ashanti is essentially of a "stay-at-home" disposition, and is content to listen, with lurking incredulity, to travellers' tales of the wonders of the outside world.

Immigration into Ashanti from the north is on the increase, and the recent visit of the Northern Territories chiefs and retinues to the Coomassie Agricultural Show will doubtless give the movement an impetus. North-country men, *i.e.*, Dagombas, Dagatis, Wangaras, Moshis, Walas, &c., find their way down for purposes of trade or to engage in manual labour of some sort; and although the majority return to their homes sooner or later, a certain percentage settled in Ashanti and form the "nuclei" of trading centres—otherwise known by the Hausa word "Zongo," or settlement.

The immigration from the Coast is, likewise, on the increase. Artizans and traders are allured to Coomassie by high wages and profits and by the attraction invariably exercised by a rising commercial centre.

Public Works.

The most important public works carried out in Ashanti during the year were:—

A new police barracks in Coomassie capable of holding 1 Superintendent and 52 non-commissioned officers and men.

The building is well situated and satisfactory from every point of view.

Two rows of lines, to accommodate 64 men, built for the use of the Gold Coast Regiment.

A consulting room added to the existing native hospital.

The hospital at Obuasi was removed by rail to Dunkwa, there to be re-erected for Government buildings.

Changes in the Establishment.

Mr. L. H. Wheatley, of the Transport Office, was appointed a District Commissioner of Ashanti, vice Captain H. A. Kortright, promoted to the Northern Territories.

Major T. A. Pamplin Green retired from the Service in the month of October.

Transport.

The Transport Department handled 8,168 loads during the year, made up as follows:—

Distributed in Coomassie	4,391
Despatched to Out-stations	1,670
,, Northern Territories ...	2,107
	8,168

The Department permanently employed 14 headmen and 338 carriers.

Coomassie Town.

The rapid development of the town of Coomassie has had the effect of enhancing the value of land, and during the year the Government collected the sum of £1,400 as rent. Although this sum represents a decrease of £180 on the amount collected in 1907, the fact is accounted for by a change in the system of collection, by which only a proportionate amount of rent was levied for the year, instead of the whole amount. This means that all rents will hereinafter fall due on the first of the new year and will be correspondingly easier to collect.

Slaughter-house fees yielded £385, a decrease of £59 on 1907, accounted for by the fact that Ashantis living in the environs of Coomassie buy and kill their own meat instead of coming to Coomassie for it, as they used to do formerly.

The sum of £167 was received as market fees—an increase of £24 over the previous year. Local supplies were plentiful and even during the time of the Agricultural Show—when a vast concourse of people was assembled in Coomassie (roughly estimated at 20,000 over and above the normal population of 8,000)—food was ample.

Nearly two miles of road were constructed in the town by prison labour, and the drainage and sanitation generally were much improved.

The town is increasing by leaps and bounds, and the steady demand for plots of land speaks well for its future prosperity.

Climate.

The climate must still be considered unhealthy for Europeans, and the country as unfit for permanent settlement. There are no openings for white labour, other than for those coming out under agreement, and Europeans should be discouraged from coming to the country without definite employment.

Wages.

The rates of wages for native labour range from 9*d*. per diem, for unskilled labour, to 3*s*. 6*d*. and more for skilled labour.

The following are the average rates paid on the mines:—

Miners:—
Hammer boys, 1*s*. 6*d*.
Shovel boys, 1*s*. 3*d*.
Boss boys, 2*s*.
Blast boys, 1*s*. 6*d*.
Fitters, 2*s*. to 4*s*. 6*d*.; fitters' boys, 1*s*. to 1*s*. 6*d*.
Carpenters, 2*s*. to 4*s*.; carpenters' boys, 1*s*. to 1*s*. 6*d*.
Masons, 2*s*. to 4*s*.; masons' boys, 1*s*. to 1*s*. 3*d*.
Mill hands, 1*s*. 9*d*. to 4*s*.
Cyanide hands, 1*s*. 6*d*. to 4*s*. 6*d*.
Dry crushing hands, 1*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. 6*d*.

The cost of living for natives is cheap, owing to the rapidly increasing area of ground under cultivation. Corn, plantains, and yams form the staple food of the country. On the other hand, the cost of living for Europeans is high in Ashanti owing to the cost of transport, and to the quantities of imported articles which may be called necessities of life and of which prudent whites will not try to deprive themselves. Mutton is 1*s*. a lb.; beef 9*d*.

Investments.

Beyond the taking up of land for mining and agricultural purposes openings for the investment of European capital are rare, and the mercantile firms may be said to have confined themselves to the building of requisite factories.

The chiefs of Coomassie have shown commendable enterprise in buildings operations—that have, so far, proved valuable and remunerative.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa was established in Coomassie towards the end of 1907, and occupied the new bank premises early in 1908. The Manager reports that:—

> "There was a steady progression of business during 1908, but it hardly came up to expectations owing principally to the heavy fall in home price of produce and to the heavy and protracted rainy season.

"The bank imported a large amount of gold, silver, and copper during the year under review, and a large demand for the former sprung up amongst the Mohammedan traders from the Northern Territories—whilst the demand for the latter denomination showed a gratifying increase.

"The ignorance of the Ashantis regarding the objects of a bank, together with their innate conservatism, are still matters to be reckoned with, but experience generally shows that with the spread of commerce and education this difficulty will gradually disappear and they will, in time, recognize that a bank affords them a safe and convenient method of saving money."

Social Condition.

The social condition of the Ashantis continues to improve rapidly. Slavery and pawning have been abolished and the Courts of the native chiefs are gradually and surely undergoing reform.

The Ashantis are fast beginning to realize that their condition is both good and enviable, with the result that from a turbulent and predatory people they are shaping themselves into excellent citizens. With a plentiful food supply, high prices for his produce and high wages for his labour, the Ashanti is commencing to appreciate the value of peace and political stability. Little addicted to crime and to the major vices of the Western civilization, he is gradually acquiring wants that can only be satisfied by industry and labour. His obedience to the dictates of the Government is ready and loyal, and arouses enthusiasm in the minds of the administrative staff.

Close touch and sympathy exist between rulers and ruled, and warrant glowing and sanguine prophecies with regard to the future of the country.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
568	Bermuda	1907
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 640.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 603.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1910.

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No. 640.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 603.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Accra,
17th May, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Ashanti Annual Report for the year 1909.

2. The general progress of this Dependency, especially in connexion with the development of agricultural and economic products, is satisfactory; and, as pointed out by the Chief Commissioner in the second paragraph of his report, the increased importation of goods, on which duty is paid at the port of entry, furnishes a better criterion of the prosperity of the inhabitants than the amount of revenue actually collected in Ashanti.

3. *Mines.*—Notwithstanding the cessation of work at Akrokerri, the output of gold increased by nearly 8,500 ounces during the year under review, mainly in consequence of the development of mines at Obuasi, belonging to the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation. The sufficiency of the local labour supply is a very important feature in the mining situation.

4. *Agriculture.*—The manner in which the chiefs and their people are now planting cocoa and rubber affords a striking example of the changed conditions of life in Ashanti; but more care is required both in the cultivation and curing of cocoa and the collection and preparation of rubber.

5. *Education.*—The opening of a Government School at Coomassie, with a registered attendance of nearly 300 boys, was the principal educational event of the year. A European headmaster has now been provided for this school.

6. *Health.*—The general health, both of Europeans and natives, was fairly good; but the prevalence of sleeping sickness, a disease which is probably endemic, was the cause of much anxiety and expense. Difficulty was also experienced in prevailing on the natives to adopt vaccination, instead of inoculation, as a protection against smallpox.

7. *Sanitation.*—Some good sanitary work has been carried out at Coomassie and Obuasi; but much still remains to be done,

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even at those towns and still more elsewhere, before it can be said that a proper state of sanitary efficiency has been attained.

The recent establishment of a special Sanitary Branch of the West African Medical Staff, which will, for the first time, organize a system of scientific sanitation throughout British West Africa, is an event of the utmost importance; and, although very heavy expenditure will necessarily be incurred in reaching and maintaining even a moderately high sanitary standard, no effort should be spared and no sacrifice can be too great to inaugurate an era of effective hygiene such as hitherto has been undreamed of in West Africa.

8. *Political.*—Good relations were maintained between Europeans and natives, and no disturbance of any political importance occurred during the year.

All the Ashanti prisoners confined at Elmina were released, and many of them were allowed to return to their own country, only some of the more important chiefs connected with the rising in 1900 being kept under surveillance in the Colony.

9. *Roads.*—The principal work of construction was that of the trunk road connecting Coomassie and Tamale, the respective capitals of Ashanti and the Northern Territories. This road, of which the total length is about 250 miles, was commenced in February and work is in progress on it, under the charge of Major G. A. Leslie, R.E., at various points along the whole line. During my last visit to Coomassie, at the beginning of the current year, I travelled over the first section of five miles in a motor car and found the road in excellent condition.

In addition to this main road, about 65 miles of district roads were constructed during the year; and it is satisfactory that there are now 100 miles of these roads in Ashanti, which have been constructed with labour supplied by the native chiefs.

10. *Coomassie.*—The trade of Ashanti, which continues to expand, is mainly centred at Coomassie, where most of the coast firms have established branches and where there is also a branch of the Bank of British West Africa.

11. In conclusion, I have pleasure in again expressing my appreciation of the administrative work carried out in Ashanti, which reflects much credit on the Chief Commissioner and his assistants.

I have, &c.,

JOHN RODGER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1909 was £29,263 13*s.* 2*d.*, as against £27,908 17*s.* 6*d.* in 1908 and £37,248 18*s.* 4*d.* in 1907.

Increases amounting in all to £4,242 are shown under 13 heads, the principal of which are: Sale of Stamps (£1,004), Royalties (£1,235 13*s.* 6*d.*), and Rents from Government Land (£880).

Decreases amounting in all to £2,887 appear under 8 heads, the principal being Caravan Tolls (£2,318).

The revenue and expenditure of Ashanti for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1905	17,532	0	0	90,052	4	9
1906	32,328	17	10	85,125	6	4
1907	37,248	18	4	82,302	13	1
1908	27,908	17	6	98,580	6	1
1909	29,263	13	2	102,211	0	0

The above figures of revenue do not include the duty collected on the coast on goods consumed in Ashanti. After deducting railway freight from £365,000, rather more than £270,000 worth of goods paid duty on the coast, which, reckoned at 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, represents a revenue of at least £27,000. Part of these goods find their way into the Northern Territories and should, strictly speaking, be credited to that Administration, but the percentage remains small in comparison, and Ashanti can rightly claim the lion's share, say, £20,000, giving a total revenue of £49,263 13*s.* 2*d.*

The above figures of expenditure include a proportionate cost of all Departmental charges and, approximately, three-fourths of the total military expenditure of the whole Colony, besides half of the outlay on the main trunk road between Coomassie and Tamale (£8,269 5*s.* 6*d.*), and about £6,000 for Public Works Extraordinary.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.—It is gratifying to be able to report a large increase in trade. An expansion was certainly anticipated but not one in proportion to actual results.

The value of imports by railway amounted to, roughly, £365,000, as against £250,000 in 1908. These figures include freight and duty.

The railway reports show an increase of 345 tons in the amount of merchandise introduced into Ashanti. This mainly consisted of cotton goods, the average value of which is well over £300 a ton.

The only decrease appeared in the "dried fish" trade, partly due to scarcity on the coast and partly to nervousness caused by some seizures made by the police of putrid matter.

The imports from the Northern Territories also show a considerable increase in cattle (25,000, as against 20,000 head), but a decrease in sheep and goats (60,000, as against 80,000); also some 7,000 loads of shea-butter, 3,000 loads of "dawa-dawa," besides many articles of native manufacture. The above figures are only approximate, as they are based on the statistics of six months of the year only.

The cattle may be averaged at £3 a head, or £75,000; sheep at 5*s*., or £12,000; shea-butter at 10*s*. a load, £3.500; dawa-dawa at 50*s*. a load, £7,500, or a total import value of £105,000, allowing a few thousands for miscellaneous articles.

Of the cattle, 2,845 (an increase of 677 on 1908) were re-exported by rail, while a large quantity were re-exported by land. The amount of meat now consumed by natives is astonishing. In nearly every village along the main trade roads can freshly-killed meat be seen exposed for sale.

A certain percentage of sheep, goats, shea-butter, dawa-dawa, and miscellaneous articles find their way to the Colony and neighbouring possessions.

Exports.—Rubber, cocoa, kola-nuts, gum copal, and ivory remain the principal exports of Ashanti; besides cattle, sheep, and native goods in transit.

From 536 tons in 1908 the export of rubber rose to 1,319 in 1909, an increase of 733 tons but only an increase of 4 tons on 1907. This was mainly due to high prices, for, although the latter ranged from 1*s*. 1*d*. per lb. to 2*s*. 2½*d*., the average price for the year must have been as much as 1*s*. 10*d*. per lb. This would give the natives an income of £270,000, as against £90,000 in 1908.

Of recent years several of the chiefs have had the foresight to prohibit the tapping of already over-taxed trees for intervals varying from one to three years, and it may be that in many districts rubber-collecting was resumed owing to the inducements offered by high prices.

The cocoa yield showed an astonishing expansion—1,790 tons, as against 751 in 1908 and 557 in 1907; and there is no reason why a steady increase should not now be maintained if the various diseases from which the plant suffers can be successfully exterminated. At an average of 35*s*. per cwt. this gives a local value of something like £63,000.

The kola trade showed a large increase, the railway having carried 1,050 tons, as against 539 in 1908, but the bulk of the trade goes north on men's heads and permeates far into the interior. It is impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the value to Ashanti of this trade, but that it is still expanding can be gauged by the railway returns. Roughly speaking, the value of exports is: to the Northern Territories, £85,000; to adjoining Territories, and shipped, £15,000; or a total of £100,000.

The exports of gum copal and maize showed a decrease on 1908. These are both insignificant products in Ashanti, and all the time of the natives now seems to be devoted to the cultivation of both cocoa and rubber.

The not over-abundant supply of gum copal and the labour in clearing and small returns attached to the cultivation of maize, militate against their production.

Summary.

Imports:—		£
From the Coast		365,000
,, ,, Northern Territories		105,000
		£470,000
Exports:—	£	£
Kola	100,000	
Rubber	270,000	
Cocoa	63,000	
Cattle and Sheep re-exported	10,000	
Miscellaneous	7,000	
		450,000
To which must be added Wages paid by the Mines and other private concerns; Military Expenditure; Public Works, and Administrative Machinery ...		160,000
Giving the country a total "spending power" of ...		610,000

The local banking movement realised an increase of general business of over 50 per cent.

Mines.—The amount of gold produced during the year was 70,914·2 ounces, valued at £301,222, as compared with 62,489·6 ounces, valued at £265,468, for 1908.

The following companies produced gold during the year:—

Company.	Fine ounces recovered.	Value.
A. Mining.		
Akrokerri — Ashanti Mines, Limited	2,465·8	£ 10,457
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited	53,444·5	227,031
Ashanti Quartzite Gold Company, Limited	723	3,072
B. Dredging.		
Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Limited	5,219·9	22,170
Offin River Gold Estates, Limited	9,061·2	38,492
Total	70,914·2	301,222

In addition to the producing companies, prospecting parties were employed in various parts of Ashanti.

The amount of labour employed by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was as follows:—

—	Surface.	Mine.	Total.
Europeans	99	24	123
Natives	2,768	989	3,757
Totals	2,867	1,013	3,880

The supply of local labour throughout the year proved sufficient to meet demands.

It is regrettable to have to report the closing down of the Akrokerri mine. Prospecting brought to light no fresh ore, so the mine was abandoned in the month of February.

On the other hand, the year under review was one of continued success for the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation. The ore reserves, estimated on an average yield of 18·2 dwts. of gold to the ton, total over 500,000 tons, and, to quote from the consulting engineer's report: "It is now possible to foresee several years of prosperity."

The Ashanti Quartzite Company has erected machinery purchased from the Obenemasie Company, and the outlook is regarded as satisfactory.

Manufactures.—No new manufactures were started during the year. As pointed out last year, the local handicrafts consist of pottery ware, weaving of cloths, mat, fan and basket-making, and metal-work, such as gold, silver, and blacksmiths' work. Extremely fine silk cloths are woven with imported yarn; these command high prices and are much sought after.

Fisheries.—The primitive methods employed from time immemorial by the inhabitants of the villages surrounding the so-called "Sacred" Lake (Busumtchwi) in the Southern Province still prevail, and prove the wisdom of those who imposed restrictive measures, for there are no signs, as yet, of a decrease in the supply of fish. Hooks and ordinary nets are strictly prohibited, indeed the only permissible method of catching fish is with large-meshed reed nets. No boat or canoe is used, only wooden poles about six feet in length and 18 to 24 inches in circumference, on which, to retain one's balance alone is a difficult feat.

Agriculture.

From the foregoing figures with regard to the output of cocoa, it may be gathered to what extent the Ashanti is now devoting himself to the cultivation of the soil. It is highly satisfactory to note that this sudden and rapid movement is becoming more and more popular, and shows every sign of taking permanent

root among a recently warlike people, with the usual result—a gradual mutation of custom.

The Agricultural Station at Coomassie continues to distribute economic plants both free and on payment of small sums. Some 12,500 seedlings were distributed during the year, mainly of Para rubber.

The area under Para rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) at the Agricultural Station, was increased to 55½ acres; and the trees, where conditions are favourable, continue to make rapid growth.

Unfortunately, great damage was experienced from the depredations of a rodent commonly called "atwa boa," which is in the habit of cutting the young trees about one or two inches above the ground.

A serious outbreak of root disease on the more advanced Para rubber trees has also occasioned damage.

The area under Funtumia rubber was somewhat reduced in securing plots for other plants. The oldest trees, now three years old, are already fruiting, but this is not surprising, considering that this tree is indigenous to the country and grows rapidly and luxuriantly anywhere in the forest.

The Commissioner of the Southern Province reports:—

"Food supplies were plentiful and cheap during the year, and everywhere farms are springing up where the forest has been cleared for firewood for the mines.

"Nearly every village possesses its cocoa farms, and the visits of travelling instructors have proved most beneficial and were much appreciated by the natives.

"The Omanhin of Dengiassi was supplied with 1,300 *Funtumia elastica* and 1,000 cocoa plants. Specimens of rubber, in biscuit form, were distributed to the Omanhins with instructions as to their preparation, and it is hoped that a higher grade of rubber will be produced in course of time."

The Commissioner of the Western Province reports:—

"Cocoa has been extensively planted. Maize, ground-nuts, native cotton, tobacco, fibre, and gum copal can be obtained in the Province, but, owing to the superiority of rubber as a source of wealth, these articles, for trade purposes, are neglected; and until the inauguration of cheap and rapid transport no great development in these directions can be expected.

"In March, about 6,000 rubber seeds were experimentally planted at Sunyani. The majority of these have thriven, and at the present moment several thousand trees are ready for distribution to the natives. The object-lesson of these seedlings has been great. All chiefs visiting the Station have been taken to see them and have agreed that they could easily achieve similar results. I have little doubt that they will do so. The majority of them had hitherto held strange ideas concerning the growing of rubber trees from seeds."

The astonishing expansion of the cocoa industry can, in great measure, be ascribed to the visits of travelling instructors belonging to the Agricultural Department, who are constantly moving among the people, teaching, lecturing, and giving practical object-lessons of the various processes they should adopt.

The pupils of the Government School attend demonstration lectures at the Botanical Station once a week and are taught the rudiments of botany and agriculture.

Land Grants.—During the year 24 mining concessions were granted, including five that had lapsed and had to be resumed under fresh leases.

No land was taken up for agricultural purposes during the year. The total amount of rent on concessions received on behalf of the native lessors was £1,289 17*s*.

The average value of mining land is at the rate of £12 per annum per concession of five square miles until mining operations commence, when a mining rent of £300 is usually payable.

This gives a total for Ashanti of 37 mining concessions, 20 mining and timber concessions, and 7 agricultural concessions—64 concessions in all.

LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.—The only ordinance expressly enacted for Ashanti during 1909 was the Ashanti Cemeteries Ordinance, 1909 (No. 2 of 1909).

The following Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony were applied to Ashanti during the year: the Vaccination Ordinance, 1888 (No. 8 of 1888); the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1896 (No. 9 of 1896); the Uniforms Ordinance, 1903 (No. 7 of 1903); and the Infectious Diseases Ordinance, 1908 (No. 2 of 1908).

Rules.—A Rule under Section 4 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance, with respect to the surveying and demarcation of the boundaries of concessions in Ashanti, was made by the Governor in 1909.

EDUCATION.

In April the first Government School of Ashanti was opened at Coomassie and proved a decided success from the first.

Natives, who are diffident of sending their children to denominational schools for fear of proselytizing influences, do not hesitate to take advantage of the privilege offered to them by the Government.

The number of pupils registered during the year was 297. Attendance at close of the year was 287. The staff consisted of three native teachers.

The Wesleyan Mission numbers eight schools, with a pupil attendance of 441—a decrease of 58 on the previous year.

The Basel Mission numbers 26 schools, with a pupil attendance of 547—an increase of four schools and 34 pupils.

The Reverend Mr. Lipps reports as follows with regard to the Basel Mission Schools:—

"Great attention was paid to this branch of the work. In some parts, in the rubber districts especially, it is very hard

to get schoolboys because their parents send them to tap rubber. In other districts the food question is a hindrance. Some natives think that the teacher should care for the school children. At Ejisu, for instance, Yao Awua refused to care for the children he had himself sent to school and we had to give them an opportunity to earn some money by carrying loads before they could continue their studies.

"But in spite of this and in spite of a Government School at Coomassie, we have an increase of schoolboys. The Ashantis are intelligent and a good material to work on. When they once overcome their fetishism and superstitions, they will see the good of education and will get on well."

From the Southern Province:—

"The Wesleyan Mission has schools at Obuasi, with an average daily attendance of 99 boys and two girls; Bekwai (average attendance, 30); and Fomena (average attendance, 30).

"The Basel Mission established a school at Kokofu, which is attended by a few boys.

"The Roman Catholic School at Obuasi has a daily average attendance of 20 children.

"The elements of reading, writing, arithmetic, history, and geography are taught at these schools."

The Western Province boasts of four Elementary Mission Schools at Berekum, Odumase, Tekiman, and Bechim. The Commissioner reports that, "owing to the strength of belief in fetish, none of these schools can be called markedly successful. Parents will not encourage their children to go to school where a change of religion is involved. At the same time everything points to the wish on the part of the chiefs for educational facilities for their children."

Besides the foregoing several small Mohammedan Schools have been set up for the teaching of the Koran to the young, but there tuition ends.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.—Coomassie and Obuasi possess European hospitals; Kintampo and Sunyani have still to content themselves with native buildings.

The admissions to these hospitals during 1909 were as follows:—

—	Coomassie.	Obuasi.	Kintampo.	Sunyani.
European Officials	29	—	—	—
„ Non-officials... ...	9	22	—	—
Native Officials	71	11	62	174
„ Non-officials	453	97	26	33
Total	562	130	88	207

Grand total 987.

The Medical Staff of Ashanti consisted of one Senior Medical Officer and four Medical Officers.

Savings Bank.—The Coomassie and Obuasi Savings Banks showed a total number of 194 depositors, with deposits to the value of £954 1*s.*, an increase of 38 depositors with £122 3*s.* on 1908.

These savings banks are only made use of by coast natives. The Ashanti proper is still too suspicious of our methods to confide his savings to strangers.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on December 31st, 1909, was 75, as against 84 in 1908.

The Coomassie detachment effected 759 arrests, as against 609 in the year 1908, an increase of 150.

The police barracks were found suitable in every way with the exception of the roofing, which has since been repaired.

At Obuasi the police effected 646 arrests, as against 575 in 1908, an increase of 71.

There were seven police attached to the Roads Department. They are directly under the control of the Superintendent of Roads.

During the past year the Akrokerri Mine was shut down and the mines police there were returned to Tarquah. The Ashanti Goldfields at Obuasi increased their police to one non-commissioned officer and five men.

There were also two constables stationed at the Ashanti Quartzite property.

These police are directly under the control of the mine managers.

The number of railway police stationed at Coomassie was one non-commissioned officer and three constables; at Obuasi, one non-commissioned officer and four constables.

The police are under the direct control of the General Manager of the Railway, and their work and duties are solely confined to the railway.

The efficiency, discipline, and general conduct of the police force were good.

Prisons.

Coomassie Gaol.—The staff consisted of one chief warder, four permanent, 14 temporary warders, and one matron. This staff provides escorts for all extra-mural work.

The total number of prisoners admitted during the twelve months was 524, against 709 in 1908, with a daily average of 108 made up as follows: convicted, 265; debtors, 85; and remanded, &c., 174.

Of the above, 56 were females; 6 convicted, 20 debtors, and 30 untried.

The general health of the prisoners was good; there were 70 admissions into the Gaol Infirmary.

Offences against prison discipline numbered 181, as against 317 in 1908.

Six executions were carried out during the year. Six prisoners escaped, five of whom were recaptured.

The main offences were:—murder, 6; manslaughter, 5; rape, 6; wounding, 9; robbery with violence, 5; larceny, &c., 143, assault, &c., 17.

Prisoners were employed on sanitary labour, making and repairing street drains and bridges, weeding and clearing, carpentering, laundry-work, basket-making, and supplying water.

The sum of £143 10*s*. 9*d*. was realized from prison industries.

Obuasi Gaol.—The staff consists of one first-class warder, one second-class warder, two permanent and three temporary warders, total, 7.

The daily average of prisoners was 36, as against 28 in 1908:—convicted, 128; debtors, 111; remanded, &c., 113.

Offences against prison discipline, 129.

The health of the prisoners was good—16 admissions into the Colonial Hospital.

A new prison was commenced late in the year, but was not ready for occupation by the end of December.

Criminal Cases.

The following table shows the number of criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner	60	7	41	12	—
Cantonment Magistrate ...	1,129	125	996	—	8
District Commissioner, Central Province.	142	39	102	—	1
Commissioner, Northern Province.	77	22	55	—	—
Commissioner, Western Province	80	35	43	—	2
Commissioner, Southern Province	908	196	708	—	4
British Krachi	96	27	69	—	—
Total	2,492	451	2,014	12	15

These figures show a total increase of 434 cases on 1908, accounted for by the Courts of the Cantonment Magistrate, District Commissioner, Central Province, Provincial Commissioner, Western Province, and District Commissioner, Krachi.

This does not mean an increase of crime so much as closer and more effective supervision.

Convictions numbered 2,014 against 1,774, an increase of 240. The principal offences were stealing and petty larceny, assault, public nuisance, and minor breaches of the peace.

There were only 41 convictions of serious offences; of these, house-breaking was responsible for 11, embezzlement for 4, stealing for 6, rape for 3, and murder for 5.

The following civil cases were disposed of during the year:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	16
Cantonment Magistrate's Court	837
District Commissioner's Court, Central Province	236
Commissioner, Northern Province	108
,, Western ,, ...	164
,, Southern ,, ...	502
District Commissioner, Krachi	1
	1,864

an increase of 515 on 1908.

The Concessions Court held two sittings during the year, at which one certificate of validity was issued and one varied. This does not take into consideration the signing of indentures and general negotiations in connection with concession work.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—Until a reliable census of Ashanti has been taken the native population can only be roughly guessed at. It has generally been reckoned at 500,000, and this figure must be supplemented by several thousand immigrants from the north, such as Moshis, Dagombas, Dagatis, Grunshis, Hausas, &c. Ashanti, moreover, numbers a large floating population of these people, who come for purposes of trade.

The number of Europeans resident in Ashanti during 1909 was 276, as against 287 in the preceding year.

Of these, 111 were officials, 6 were missionaries, and 159 merchants and miners.

Daily average of Europeans in Coomassie, 57.

Public Health.—The health of the Europeans stationed in Ashanti was good. No deaths occurred among officials: two among non-officials, of whom six were invalided.

Invaliding rate for officials ...	... 6·3	per cent.
Death-rate for non-officials	... 1·3	,,
Invaliding rate for non-officials	... 3·0	,,

Early in the year two cases of sleeping sickness (*Trypanosomiasis Gambiensis*) were reported by the Medical Officer,

Kintampo. On investigation, it was proved that the disease was all too prevalent in the neighbourhood of Kintampo and had been the cause of several deaths some two years previously; besides these, cases cropped up in various places, notably at Sunyani, the headquarters of the Western Province, where the European Medical Officer became infected after a three months' residence and had to be invalided to England.

The fact that the attention of the Government was drawn to the prevalence of sleeping sickness in Ashanti proved by far the most important event of the year as regards public health. An expert, Dr. Kinghorn, has been at work investigating the disease, with the result that trypanosomes have been discovered in about one per cent. of natives examined. Serious as this may seem, it would appear from native evidence that the disease is by no means of recent importation and that it has not yet been experienced in an epidemic form. The *Glossina palpalis* being prevalent throughout Ashanti, it is to be hoped that some degree of immunity will be found to have been acquired by the people of the country. Clearing operations on a large scale were put into force and a fly-proof hospital erected.

The smallpox epidemic in Ashanti of 1908, although it seemed to lose some of its virulence, continued to spread throughout 1909, broadly speaking, from the main trade roads into the numerous villages on the connecting by-paths.

When once the disease has been introduced into a village, it is rare for any but the immune to escape. In most cases this is due to ignorance of the simplest precautionary measures and belief in the omnipotence of fetishism.

It is, under existing circumstances, impossible to gauge the mortality due to this disease with any degree of accuracy; it necessarily varies considerably, and may be reckoned at anything between 10 and 50 per cent.

The usual native method of combating the disease is by inoculation of the healthy from a pustule of a person suffering from the disease. No attempt seems to be made to choose a mild case or purposely to attentuate the virus. This process usually produces infection and the disease is often spread thereby.

Several thousand natives were vaccinated according to our methods, with varying success—according to the quality of the lymph available—which, unfortunately, left much to be desired.

Sanitation and Climate.—Sanitation continues to improve in Coomassie, Obuasi, and the Provincial headquarter towns, where Medical Officers are stationed and the natives directly controlled by the authorities; but the ordinary Ashanti village leaves much to be desired, although strong efforts have been made to try and make the chiefs and people realize the danger of dirt and squalor.

Further progress was made in draining the Coomassie swamp, and houses are at present built on sites which, a few years ago, were literally under water during the rains.

The growth of the town is being carefully watched and sufficient air-spaces secured. Incinerators are in constant use and latrines enlarged and increased in number.

The improved sanitation of Coomassie is appreciated by the chiefs and people, not only of the town itself but also of the surrounding country; and, when recommending sanitary measures in the outlying villages, it is only necessary to direct the attention of the inhabitants to Coomassie as an object-lesson.

Sanitary Committees are at work at all headquarter stations, and new and severer measures have been introduced for the general sanitation of native villages.

The water-supply at all headquarter stations continues excellent.

Rainfall.—Coomassie, 53·57 inches, as compared with 59·62 in 1908 and 63·32 in 1907. Obuasi (for nine months only) 55·62, as against 78·13 in 1908 and 75·24 in 1907.

Temperature.

	Average minimum.	Average maximum.
Coomassie	66·56	87·51
Obuasi	66·77	87·66

Direction of Wind.—The prevailing wind in Coomassie is south-west.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHS.

Post and telegraph offices are now opened at Coomassie, Obuasi, Moinsi Hill, Sunyani, Nkoranza, Atebubu, and Kintampo.

Mails are received and despatched daily between the coast and Obuasi, and four times a week between the coast and Coomassie.

Mails are likewise despatched and received once a week between Coomassie and the Northern Territories, Kintampo, and Sunyani.

The three principal post offices in Ashanti (*i.e.*, Coomassie, Obuasi, and Akrokerri) handled the following mail matter:—

—	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and post-cards	122,205	201,068	323,273
Book packets, &c.	21,990	33,711	55,701
Registered articles	22,946	8,866	31,812
Parcels	1,296	7,239	8,535
Totals	168,437	250,884	419,321

The receipts of these three offices were £39,026, an increase of £6,714, as compared with 1908. They received and forwarded 58,000 telegraph messages, the total number for the eight telegraph stations in Ashanti being 75,186.

RELIGION.

In former reports will be found all that there is to be said on the subject of the Ashanti form of worship, which is a mixture of "Animism" and ancestor worship.

No recrudescence of the "Abirewa" cult (which enjoyed a fashionable vogue during 1908) occurred, and, indeed, general satisfaction was experienced at its suppression, mainly owing to the disproportionate powers abrogated unto itself by the priesthood. Occasional "witch-finders" enjoy spasmodic success, but nothing of a serious movement has to be recorded for 1909.

The Basel Mission reports an increase of 94, making a total of 1,590 adherents.

These figures include adherents in Ashanti-Akim who, although Ashantis, are reckoned by the Mission for administrative purposes, as falling within another circuit. These number 966 of the total, leaving 626 for Ashanti proper.

The staff consisted of three European missionaries, two native ministers, 19 catechists, and 12 teachers.

The Wesleyan Mission reports a total membership of 1,267, being an increase of 108 on last year. The staff of the Mission consisted of one native pastor, four catechists, and 17 teachers.

The total Christians of Ashanti may be put down at 2,859, an increase of 204 on 1908.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The land between the Prah and Anum Rivers was declared a forest reserve early in the year. This comprises some 65 square miles. In August, a game and forest reserve, which will eventually comprise some 1,250 square miles, was likewise acquired by the Government from the Omanhins of Okwahu and Kumawu.

Several land disputes, of primary importance to the various native tribes, were settled during the year, great interest and importance being attached to these owing to the revived interest in the mining industry, the demand for concessions and enhanced value of economic products.

Alluding to these disputes, the Commissioner of the Southern Province says: "It is doubtful if, in the old days, any subdivisions existed among tribal lands, and the boundaries of the latter were themselves very vaguely, if at all, defined. Now, however, chiefs come forward with evidence as to their boundaries dating from the time of King Osei Tutu, who must, indeed, have been a man of remarkable capacity if, as he is stated to have done, he settled all the land disputes and fixed the boundaries ascribed to his decisions.

"The return of the Dengiassis to their tribal lands in Ashanti gave rise to a dispute between that tribe and the Bekwais. The latter supported the claim of their sub-chief of Asansu to most of the Dengiassi lands, and matters reached so acute a stage that at one time it was thought that it would be necessary to

send troops to Asansu. Fortunately, the complete submission, at the last moment, of the Chief of Asansu, rendered this course unnecessary, and, at a meeting held at Bekwai on the 19th April, an agreement was drawn up between the Omanhins of Bekwai and Dengiassi and their sub-chiefs which defined the boundaries.

"A land dispute which threatened to be attended by the most serious consequences occurred towards the end of the year, when the Akrokerris and Dompoasis—sub-chiefs under the Omanhin of Adansi—quarrelled about their boundaries. A decision in favour of the Akrokerris was given, but, not content with this, the Chief of Akrokerri, supported by the ex-chief (who had been deported to Elmina after the 1900 rising and was allowed to return to his country in December, 1908) demanded all the indentures of leases affecting his lands, held by the Omanhin of Adansi, as head chief of the country. This request being refused, fighting between the rival factions broke out at Obuasi."

With the exception of the above-reported disturbances, the conduct of the Ashanti chiefs throughout the country was good.

The Commissioner of the Western Province reports: "The year has, as regards native affairs, been one of quiet, and signs of improvement and desire on the part of the natives to assist in public affairs have been visible.

"More Ashantis have been offering themselves as permanent labourers, and the chiefs of Bechim, Nkwanta, Odumase, Nsoatra, and Berekum readily promised labour to construct a road from Nsuto to Berekum. The first two mentioned chiefs have been as good as their word and have completed about 11 miles of road. Their work is good, and, to show the spirit in which they worked, I am informed that an average of 800 men per diem worked on the Bechim portion for a period of three months. The other chiefs will, in their turn, complete their portions of road as readily as the others have done."

Railways.—The Ashanti section of the Gold Coast Government Railway showed a substantial increase under all heads except "Maize." The following tables give details:—

Statement of Goods Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1909.

—	1908.		1909.		Increase		Decrease	
	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru ...	181	213	311	400	130	187	—	—
Obuasi	3,448	16,611	5,271	28,349	1,823	11,738	—	—
Akrokerri ...	2,416	3,542	480	1,113	—	—	1,936	2,429
Bekwai	169	853	255	887	86	34	—	—
Eduadin ...	82	46	47	49	—	3	35	—
Coomassie ...	6,830	42,941	9,028	55,453	2,198	12,512	—	—
Total ...	13,126	64,206	15,392	86,251	4,237	24,474	1,971	2,429

Comparative Statement of Passenger Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1909.

—	1908.		1909.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru ...	1,219	238	2,923	350	1,704	112	—	—
Obuasi	9,763	3,519	20,814	4,634	11,051	1,115	—	—
Akrokerri ...	4,623	1,117	4,912	806	289	—	—	311
Bekwai	1,611	400	5,100	765	3,489	365	—	—
Eduadin ...	466	94	1,002	143	536	49	—	—
Coomassie ...	6,731	4,422	15,978	5,365	9,447	943	—	—
Total ...	24,413	9,790	50,729	12,063	26,316	2,584	—	311

The total tonnage of imports into Ashanti by rail was 9,995, and exports, 5,397—an increase of 2,266 tons on 1908, or nearly 18 per cent.

The General Manager of the Railway reports that, as a result of the reduced fares and free allowance of luggage, which came into operation on the 1st July, 1909, the railway has carried double the number of passengers for an increased revenue of something like 23 per cent.

The live-stock traffic has increased considerably, while that in "dried fish" has fallen in tonnage.

Since the clearing of forest trees along the line, through Ashanti, there has been a marked diminution of delays in the train service.

An important improvement was carried out at Coomassie in the shape of extended shedding to accommodate goods traffic.

Roads.—A "Roads Department," in charge of Royal Engineer officers, was inaugurated towards the end of 1908 for the construction of a main trunk road between Coomassie and Tamale (the headquarters of the Northern Territories), a distance of some 240 miles.

Actual road work was not commenced until the 10th February, 1909. Roughly speaking, ten months' work was put in during the year and 15 miles of road completed up to "formation level," *i.e.*, up to the state previous to metalling.

The first portion (Coomassie-Pankrone, 4½ miles) was opened for motor traffic on the 26th December and has been in regular use since then.

The road is being constructed with a ruling grade of 1 in 15; but, so far, a grade of 1 in 20 has been exceeded only in two places for short distances. As a rule, the grades are very easy.

The bridges, so far, owing to the great difficulties and expense of transport, have been constructed with Odum timber and calculated to support a live load of seven tons. They are twelve feet wide between hand-rails.

The average cost of the road per mile was £1,102, a moderate figure when the densely-wooded nature of the country and inexperienced labour are taken into consideration.

The average number of native labourers employed was 850, recruited from a variety of tribes, such as Ashantis, Krepis, Mendis, Dagatis, and Dagombas.

Besides the above, some 65 miles of district roads were built during the year, under the supervision of native contractors, by unpaid or partly paid native labour supplied by the chiefs. Altogether, some 100 miles of these roads have now been completed.

Immigration and Emigration.—Immigration from the north is decidedly on the increase, owing to an expanding trade. The Ejura "Zongo," in particular, has developed enormously of late years; but the increase in permanent settlers, although steady, cannot be said to be large. The vast majority of north-countrymen constitute a "floating population," expanding and contracting according to trade requirements.

A developing feature of this movement is to be found in the number of Moshis that now come to Coomassie from the French possessions north of the Northern Territories.

Immigration from the coast is likewise steadily increasing, attracted to the rising townships of Obuasi and Coomassie by the prospect of high wages or quick gains.

The Ashantis do not emigrate, or in such small numbers that the movement need not be taken into consideration. With the traditions of middlemen, they allow themselves to be exploited by strangers, provided that the latter, in their turn, pander to their wants.

Public Works.—The most important works carried out in Ashanti during 1909 were the new lines for the Gold Coast Regiment, to accommodate 64 men each; three new armouries; the Government School, consisting of three buildings; the new Court House; European quarters for two officers; operating room and women's ward; besides a host of minor works. At Obuasi a new prison was commenced and nearly finished. A mono-rail round the Krachi rapids was completed. It is believed that this will prove a great convenience to traders and facilitate water transport on the Volta River.

Changes in the Establishment.—The Chief Commissioner was on leave from the 15th June, 1909, to the 18th of December, during which time Major C. H. Armitage, D.S.O., Provincial Commissioner, acted in his stead.

Mr. T. E. Fell, Provincial Commissioner, was on leave from the 31st May to the 12th December, 1909.

Captain G. W. C. Soden was on leave from the beginning of the year, and retired on pension after completion of his leave.

Major C. E. D. O. Rew took over the Southern Province from Mr. Pott, the former having been relieved by Captain E. H. Hobart at Kintampo.

Captain E. H. Hobart proceeded on leave on the 2nd of November.

Mr. C. H. Harper was appointed Cantonment Magistrate, and performed duty from the 25th May till the 28th of August, when he was promoted to be a Provincial Commissioner in the Colony.

Captain R. D. Whiggam acted as Cantonment Magistrate from the 28th August, until relieved by Mr. H. C. W. Grimshaw, who was appointed Cantonment Magistrate in place of Mr. Harper on the 11th September.

Mr. Grimshaw proceeded on leave from the 10th of October, having been relieved by Mr. Griffith.

Mr. L. H. Wheatley was invalided to the Islands from 13th July to the 9th September.

Captain H. de Corsey Denny was on leave from the beginning of the year to 11th May, and took over the Western Province from Mr. Fell.

Transport.—The Transport Department handled 9,875 loads during the year, of which 6,812 were distributed in Coomassie, 928 were despatched to out-stations, and 2,135 were despatched to the Northern Territories.

The Department employed 14 headmen and 336 carriers, besides clerks and overseers.

Coomassie Town.—The town continues to extend and develop with satisfactory progress; not, perhaps, with the rapidity of a few years ago, but with a greater element of regularity and stability. From £1,400 in 1908, ground rents rose to over £2,000 for 1909, but this was mainly due to the introduction of a more thorough means of rent collecting.

Slaughter-house fees showed an increase of £170—£555 as against £385 in 1908. With an abundant supply of cattle and cheap money, Coomassie is consuming more and more animal food, and what used to be considered a luxury is now fast becoming a necessity.

Market rents amounted to £208, as against £167 in 1908, an increase of £41. Local supplies were plentiful, and although prices varied with the seasons, no increase on the preceding years was experienced.

There was a steady demand by European firms for land in, and in the neighbourhood of, the European allotment.

Rent is fixed for Europeans on the basis of £24 per annum per 16,000 square feet, while alien natives pay at the rate of £4, and Ashantis at the rate of £2 per 2,500 square feet.

In the Mohammedan quarter (Zongo) the land is let at the rate of £4 per annum for plots measuring 75 × 75 feet; special terms of a quarter of the above amount being allowed to reservists of the Gold Coast Regiment.

Registration of births and deaths within the town precincts was introduced.

The population of the town is, roughly speaking, 8,000, but this figure is exceeded at certain times of the year, when large numbers of traders descend from the north and augment the population by several thousands.

New roads are constructed in the town by prison labour: 4,390 feet of drains built and various sanitary works attended to.

Climate.—As stated in last year's report, the climate of Ashanti is not suitable for permanent European settlement, and on no account should Europeans journey to this country without fixed and definite employment.

Wages.—The rates of wages for native labour range from 9*d.* per diem for unskilled labour to 3*s.* 6*d.*, and more, for skilled labour.

From 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* is easily earned by labourers engaged in any public or private works.

The cost of living for natives is normal, owing to the rapidly increasing area of ground under cultivation. Corn, plantains, and yams form the staple food of the country. On the other hand, the cost of living for Europeans is high in Ashanti, owing to the cost of transport and to the quantities of imported articles which may be called necessities of life and of which prudent whites will not try to deprive themselves.

Mutton is 1*s.* a lb.; beef, 9*d.*; fowls from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* each.

Investments.—Openings for investment of capital are confined to mercantile undertakings, mining, and agriculture. The European firms showed commendable enterprise in developing their connections, and several of the native chiefs now readily engage in trading ventures, foreign to them a short time since.

The manager of the Coomassie branch of the Bank of British West Africa (established at the end of 1907) has kindly supplied me with the following remarks:—

"The business of the Coomassie branch continued to show steady progress during the year under review, but the Ashantis still seem to prefer their crude native methods of utilising and keeping their savings to the up-to-date facilities afforded by the bank.

"A large quantity of British silver coin was placed in circulation, especially during the last quarter of the year. It was principally taken by European firms and native traders for the purchase of rubber and cocoa.

"The demand for gold by the cattle dealers from the north still continues, and arrangements have been made whereby their requirements will be met."

Social Condition.—Belonging to a race of a high order of mentality, comparatively speaking, it has not taken the Ashanti long to appreciate the benefits of peace and prosperity; and, beyond occasional disturbances caused by land or tribal disputes, little can be said against his good behaviour.

The Ashanti organisation, so powerful in olden days, still maintains many elements of cohesion, but, with the spread of Western civilization and more liberal ideas, the inevitable conflict between youth and authority has already commenced.

In so radical and, so to speak, brusque a change of conduct, custom, and condition as has been experienced by this country of late years, it is, perhaps, but natural that the younger members of the community should wish to throw off an irksome and restraining, albeit legitimate, authority.

It is the duty of the Administration to check this tendency when it oversteps the bounds of prudence and reason, or the

country would experience a convulsive collapse of a tribal system which, when purged of certain repugnant features, has proved worthy of admiration and support, and one which has been of the utmost assistance in carrying out a succession of constant and rapid reforms by the Administration.

Beyond this note of danger, there is nothing to mar the clearness of the political horizon; on the contrary, the good understanding existing between rulers and ruled, the ready obedience and fast-awakening loyalty of the people, the gradual but steady trend towards industrialism, all presage a bright and hopeful outlook for the future of this corner of the Empire.

F. C. FULLER.

23rd April, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
68	Do. do.	Do. do. 1906-7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 680.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 640.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1911.

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SKETCH MAP.

No. 680.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 640.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Accra,
17th May, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Annual Report on Ashanti for the year 1910, compiled by the Acting Chief Commissioner, Mr. A. J. Philbrick.

2. The general development of this Dependency has been well maintained during the period under review and the relations between the Administrative Staff and the Chiefs continue to be excellent.

I have, &c.,

H. BRYAN,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable,
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(20478—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125 & 85. 7/11. D & S. A 2

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1910 was £37,621 9*s.* 0*d.*, as against £29,263 13*s.* 2*d.* in 1909 and £27,908 17*s.* 6*d.* in 1908.

Increases amounting in all to £8,665 18*s.* 6*d.* are shown under 13 heads, the principal of which are:—

	£
Firearms and Ammunition	3,022
Prospecting and Mining...	110
Court Fines and Fees	355
Mining Royalties	1,768
Obuasi Contribution	1,037
Sale of Stamps	1,654
Prison Labour	105
Miscellaneous	501

Decreases amounting in all to £308 appear under seven heads, the principal being:—

	£
Ferry Tolls	101
Rents from Government Land	112

The revenue and expenditure of Ashanti for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1906	32,329	85,125
1907	37,249	82,303
1908	27,909	98,580
1909	29,264	102,211
1910	37,621	117,398

These figures show the actual money collected and expended in Ashanti, and do not represent its financial position.

The greater portion of the revenue is paid in the shape of an *ad valorem* duty on articles introduced into the country. This duty is collected at the port of entry and credited to the revenue of the Colony and not that of Ashanti.

Stamp duties, registration and survey fees are also paid in the Colony and do not appear in the figures given above.

Expenditure on the other hand includes the greater part of the cost of the Gold Coast Regiment, which is stationed at Coomassie.

Extraordinary expenditure on the Coomassie-Tamale Road amounting to £13,656, and on Public Works amounting to £3,283 is also included in the above figures.

Were it possible to obtain an accurate adjustment of accounts between Ashanti and the Colony the disparity between recurrent revenue and expenditure would, no doubt, be considerably less than is indicated by the figures qucted in the first paragraph.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

1910 was a prosperous year for trade.

Imports by railway amounted to 18,358 tons, showing the large increase of 3,094 tons over 1909, and representing a gross value of £438,000.

The increase was in all classes of imported goods, and is attributed to the prosperous condition of trade generally and to the successful working of the mining industry at Obuasi.

Wines and spirits carried on the railway showed an increase of 30 tons, which can be taken as a sign that the practice of bringing these commodities over land is being discontinued.

Dried fish from the Coast, which showed a falling off during 1909, again decreased in 1910 from 460 tons to 270 tons, and I am unaware at present to what cause this serious decrease should be attributed.

Imports from other parts were as follows:—

Cattle.—The number given as directly imported from the Northern Territories is 15,755, but an equal number at least enters Ashanti from the Ivory Coast. The total value may be put down at £90,000.

3,534 head were re-exported by rail; 3,659 were slaughtered in Coomassie, and the remainder were distributed by road through Ashanti and the Colony.

Sheep and Goats.—56,000 are given as coming from the Northern Territories, and the total number entering Ashanti may be placed at 60,000, of the value of £15,000; of these 2,098 were re-exported.

1,223 were slaughtered at Coomassie, and the balance distributed throughout Ashanti and the Colony.

Various.—6,789 loads of shea-butter valued at £3,394; 9,607 loads of dawa-dawa valued at £19,214; and 90 loads of ivory also entered from the Northern Territories.

EXPORTS.

1,257 tons of rubber were exported—for this £293,320 was paid in Coomassie. This is a decrease in the quantity of 62 tons exported in 1909, but a large increase in value.

The decrease is entirely accounted for by the fall in price towards the end of the year, which caused tappers to hold over. Very large quantities came in early in 1911.

The export of cocoa shows an increase of 124 tons, the total being 1,914 tons as against 1,790 in 1909. Its value was £80,388.

Kola.—The vast bulk of these nuts leaves the country to the northward. They are distributed all over Mohammedan Africa.

There was a small decrease of shipments on the railway of 73 tons. This is caused, I gather, from the Hausas, who have this trade entirely in their hands, finding the shipping arrangements at Seccondee unsatisfactory at present, owing to there being no available space to ventilate the kola while waiting for the steamer at Seccondee and so prevent fermentation.

Otherwise this trade has been very active, and though accurate statistics are not available the figures given in the last year's report as to the value of this trade were probably exceeded in 1910.

Exports of corn and maize show an increase of 31 tons.

An endeavour is being made to open up a trade in hides and horns for export to England. The outlook is promising.

Summary.

Value of Imports:—

	£
From Coast	438,000
From the North	132,000
	£570,000

Value of Exports:—

	£
Kola	100,000
Rubber	293,320
Cocoa	80,388
Cattle and Sheep re-exported... ...	15,185
	£488,893

The bank, as in previous years, imported very large quantities of newly coined silver which was distributed as wages and in payment of produce—of this only a portion was returned through the trading houses, and a large residue remains in the country, some going, no doubt, to increase the floating currency in the hands of petty traders, but far the larger part being hoarded and kept out of circulation.

Natives as yet cannot be got to trust their savings to the bank.

Agriculture.

The agricultural tendency of the natives still continued, and the Ashantis devoted themselves more and more during the year to the culture of cocoa and rubber.

Cocoa.—The spread of cocoa disease, which unfortunately is prevalent in the Central Province, does not seem to have damped the ardour of cocoa growers so far; a farm that is attacked is abandoned and a new farm started, often too near the old infected one.

The efforts of the travelling instructors have been almost entirely devoted to teaching the people how to combat disease, and to alleviate it as much as possible. Many have realized that diseased trees can be saved, and have made use of the sprayers and syringes that have been distributed free to those who were willing to use them.

It is regrettable that buyers do not pay a better price for cocoa that has been well fermented. At present, I am informed, all cocoa coming into the market fetches the same price. There is

consequently no inducement to the growers to improve the quality.

Rubber.—The experimental plantations of rubber at Kintampo and Sunyani progressed favourably.

An effort was made to induce the natives to convert the latex into biscuits instead of lumps. Many of them are quite familiar with the process, but they explained that they made more profit on the lumps, the greater weight extracted from the same quantity of latex more than compensating for the lesser price.

There is at present no plantation rubber produced, but there has been a demand for good rubber land, and a few concessions are now in course of acquirement for this purpose.

The Botanical Station at Coomassie distributed 14.000 seedlings during the year, and a considerable quantity of rubber seeds. The rubber trees in the experimental plantations, both Hevea and Funtumia, suffered considerably from fungus disease and from the depredation of rodents.

Interesting experiments with various commercial plants were conducted during the year.

Mines.

During 1910 the amount of gold obtained by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was 94,851·788 ounces of fine gold, valued at £403,006, as compared with 70,914·265 ounces, valued at £301,222, obtained in 1909.

Mining.

Name of Company.	Ounces of fine gold recovered.	Value. £
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation ...	84,031·220	356,965
Ashanti Quartzite Company, Ltd. ...	1,189·598	5,054
Dredging.		
Ashanti Rivers and Concessions ...	3,170·210	13,467
Offin River Gold Estates, Ltd. ...	6,460·760	27,520
Total	94,851·788	403,006

The amount of labour employed by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was as follows:—

——	Surface.	Mine.	Total.
Europeans	122	30	152
Natives...	3,594	1,281	4,875
Total	3,716	1,311	5,027

During the year prospecting work has been carried out on the conglomerate outcrops, situated in Eastern Ashanti, on the concessions owned by the Gold Coast Explorers, and the "W.A.P." Syndicate.

Manufactures.

With the exception of local handicrafts, generally of a very rude and primitive description, there are no manufactures.

Weaving is done on hand looms ingeniously manufactured from a few rough sticks. A certain amount of native cotton is made into yarn and used in the looms, but most of the so-called native cloths are woven with English yarns.

Pottery.—The potter's wheel is unknown; pots are roughly shaped by the hand.

Fisheries.

Except for the few fish caught in the rivers and Lake Busumtchi all the fish eaten is brought up from the Coast. If large it is sun-dried—but the bulk of the trade consists of herrings smoked over a wood fire. They are highly thought of, and fetch a good price.

LEGISLATION.

Certain additions and amendments were made under Section 26 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance to incorporate amendments that had been made in the Marriage Ordinance; the Post Office Ordinance; the Public Officers Guarantee Fund Ordinance; and the Land Registry Ordinance; and by adding to the Statute List the Statute Law Revision Ordinance of 1909, and the Gold Coast Mining Products Protection Ordinance.

Rules were issued during the year for the regulation of towns; the regulation of sleeping sickness; the sale of firearms and ammunition; and for the regulation of prisons.

EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in Ashanti by the Government School at Coomassie; the Basel Mission; the Wesleyan Mission; and the Roman Catholic Mission.

The Government School is undenominational. It has had a most successful year and the number of pupils was only limited by the want of an adequate staff.

The buildings were formally opened by Sir John Rodger on January 17th, but they had been in use since the previous April.

The following is a summary of attendances, &c.:—

Number of meetings	436
Average number on roll...	343·66
Average number present	203·66
Percentage of attendance	59·57
Number admitted	169
Number left	113

The large number who were admitted and who left is accounted for by the fact that all boys who had been absent for a considerable time, were struck off the roll, to allow others to be admitted in their places.

There are many more applicants than can be dealt with.

The Basel Mission has three assisted schools in Ashanti, at Coomassie, Mampon, and Bompata, with other smaller schools in various villages, numbering 26 in all.

The Roman Catholic have senior and junior schools in Coomassie with an attendance of 95, and a school at Obuasi with an attendance of 34.

The Wesleyan Mission has ten schools in Ashanti. At Coomassie there are 179 children on the roll with an average attendance of 100·5, while at Obuasi there is an average attendance of 50.

A new school was opened at Kintampo with 32 pupils.

In the Western and Northern Provinces there are several Mohammedan Schools, where the Koran is taught.

Education is spreading with rapidity amongst the Ashantis proper and the Akims, but is making little or no headway in Northern and Western Ashanti.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.—There are European hospitals at Coomassie and Obuasi, and Native hospitals at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Kintampo, while at the latter place a fly-proof building has been erected for dealing with sleeping sickness cases.

There is no asylum in the Dependency, violent cases being sent for detention to Accra.

Savings Bank.—Business connected with the Savings Bank is transacted at Obuasi and Coomassie.

At the former place there were in 1910 143 depositors with deposits amounting to £730 11*s.*, as against £348 16*s.* in 1909, a most satisfactory increase of over 100 per cent.

At Coomassie the depositors were 60 in number; deposits amounted to £1,230 7*s.* 3*d.*

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police—The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on 31st December, 1910, was 102, as against 75 in 1909, an increase of 27.

The Coomassie detachment effected 589 arrests, as against 759 in the year 1909, a decrease of 170.

At Obuasi the police effected 529 arrests, as against 646 in 1909, a decrease of 117.

The efficiency, discipline, and general conduct of the police force were good.

There were seven police attached to the Roads Department, who are directly under the Superintending Engineer for duty, &c.

During December last year one non-commissioned officer and

three constables were stationed at Ejura with the Travelling Commissioner for duty.

The mines police in Ashanti during the year numbered ten and were distributed in this way, viz., two non-commissioned officers and five constables at Ashanti Goldfields Corporation property at Obuasi; one constable at Sansu, the Ashanti Territory Gold Mining Company, Limited; and two constables at the Ashanti Quartzite, Limited. They were put under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner of Police in Ashanti, commencing from 1st September.

The number of railway police stationed at Coomassie was one non-commissioned officer and three constables; at Obuasi, one non-commissioned officer and three constables.

These police are under the direct control of the General Manager of the railway, and their work and duties are solely confined to the railway.

Prisons.

Coomassie.—The staff of Coomassie prison consisted of one 1st class, six 2nd class, and one 3rd class warders, and a matron—assisted by temporary warders when required.

The total number admitted consisted of 475, consisting of 54 debtors, 103 remanded, and 318 convicts, male and female.

Convicts sentenced to more than three years were sent to Seccondee Central Prison—of these there were eleven in the year.

Health was good, there only being 55 admissions to the infirmary and one death.

The cost of this prison was £1,207 17*s.* 3*d.* for the year.

The total earned by prison labour was £1,042 9*s.* 3*d.*, of which £270 10*s.* 9*d.* was cash, the balance being credit for work done for other departments.

Outside labour consisted of the usual sanitary work, road-making, &c.

Inside labour included laundry work and carpentry.

There were nine escapes and four recaptures.

Obuasi.—The daily average of prisoners was 35. The staff consisted of four warders, with temporary men employed as needed.

The health was good.

A new prison building was completed in March, and is now in occupation.

Sunyani.—The daily average of short sentence prisoners was 21.

Health was good, the daily sick list being ·17.

Kintampo.—The daily average was seven. Health was good. No deaths from sickness.

One man was shot while attempting to escape.

In all prisons discipline was well maintained.

Criminal Cases.

The following table gives a list of the criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti, and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner	43	3	40	—	—
Cantonment Magistrate ...	897	52	812	21	12
District Commissioner, Central Province.	69	18	47	4	—
Commissioner, Southern Province.	719	74	593	46	6
Commissioner, Northern Province.	110	14	96	—	—
Commissioner, Western Province.	187	33	152	1	1
Totals	2,025	194	1,740	72	19

a decrease of 467 on last year. This decrease is at Coomassie and Obuasi, and may be accounted for by the fact that fewer summonses for nuisances, &c., were issued. This is owing both to the natives in town having picked up some of the rudiments of sanitation, and to the fact that preventive supervision has been more constant.

Serious crime was as follows:—

Murder	5
Manslaughter	2
Rape	13
Robbery with violence	5
Burglary	6
Arson	1

The following is a list of civil cases disposed of during the year:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	30
Cantonment Magistrate	431
District Commissioner, Central Province ...	171
Commissioner, Southern Province	506
Commissioner, Northern Province	80
Commissioner, Western Province	141
	1,359

or a decrease of 505 from 1909.

Fines and fees of court amounted during the year to £819.

The Concessions Court held eight sittings.

One Certificate of Validity was issued, and fifteen were varied.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—At the time of writing, active preparations are taking place for a complete Census.

Coomassie is the largest town and has a population of about 19,000.

Public Health.—The average daily number of Europeans resident in Ashanti was as follows: —

Officials	57
Missionaries	5
Other non-officials	193
Women	3
	268 as against

276 in 1909.

One official and four non-officials died, or 1·86 per cent.

Coomassie.—During the year the aggregate number of Europeans resident in Coomassie was 128; being—

81 Government officials,
42 Merchants,
3 Missionaries,
2 Ladies.

128

There were no deaths.

Two officials and one non-official were invalided; the invaliding rate working out at—officials, 2·469 per cent.; unofficials, 2·127 per cent.

75 Europeans in Coomassie were placed on the sick list, the great majority from intermittent fever.

The European hospital was kept in an efficient condition. 31 officials and 21 non-officials were admitted during the year, each spending an average of 6 days.

The health of the native staff was most satisfactory. Details of the health of natives generally are impossible to obtain, but their condition generally was good.

Native Hospital.—There were 838 admissions and 40 deaths during the year.

There were 37,977 attendances as out-patients; of these, about 20,000 were soldiers, mostly suffering from ulcers of the feet and legs.

The Provincial Medical Officer reports that there is a gradual increase of out-patients from the surrounding villages, and that consequently much good work is being done.

Obuasi.—The daily average of Europeans was 174:

10 Government officials,
164 miners and merchants.

174

There were no deaths among officials, and three amongst the other Europeans.

The invaliding rate was:—

Officials	1	per cent.
Unofficials	6·76	,,

The death rate—

Officials	0·0	per cent.
Unofficials	2·25	,,

Sleeping Sickness.—There were between 80 and 90 known cases of sleeping sickness during the year. This disease is principally prevalent in the Western Province and round Krachi.

15 cases were treated with atoxyl injections at Coomassie.

A small special isolation hospital for the treatment of this disease is being built.

Dr. Kinghorn completed his tour and has contributed a valuable and lengthy report on this subject, which will be published.

He states:—"Over the whole of the Western Province sleeping sickness and tsetse flies, more particularly *Glossina palpalis*, are common, and both are most frequent in the semi-forest country comprising the Gaman, Berekum, and Wenchi districts. The disease appears to exist in a chronic endemic form, except possibly in the areas mentioned above, though it is impossible to say it is here becoming epidemic."

Dr. Keigwin was also stationed at Krachi on special duty connected with sleeping sickness.

Smallpox.—Smallpox was prevalent throughout Ashanti, outbreaks being reported from all parts. The Provincial Medical Officer attributes a good deal of it to the old established Ashanti custom of inoculating healthy persons direct from those suffering from the disease.

A large amount of lymph vaccination was successfully performed (2,881 vaccinations in Coomassie alone), and the outbreak is being well kept under.

Medical officers were stationed at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, Kintampo, and Krachi, and a nursing sister was in charge of the Coomassie hospital throughout the year.

Sanitation and Climate.

As in other parts of the Colony, special attention was paid to sanitation throughout Ashanti.

Details of the measures taken in the principal centres are submitted below; no opportunity has been lost of impressing on the Chiefs and residents in the outlying towns and villages the paramount importance of cleanliness, pure water, and sanitary dwellings.

During my recent tours, which included all but the Southern part of Ashanti, I found a most gratifying desire on the part of the Chiefs to have their villages better laid out. Every assistance that the limited staff could give was afforded them.

In this connection the work of the travelling Sanitary Inspectors is invaluable, as they can remain at a village the necessary time to carry out suggested improvements, whereas a Commis-

sioner's duties are multifarious, and when travelling he cannot wait to see the fulfilment of the directions he has given.

Pit latrines of serviceable pattern have been very generally erected outside the villages.

The supply of clean drinking water presents a serious difficulty. At present the vast preponderance of villages depend for their supply on running streams, which often diminish to stagnant pools for weeks together in the dry season. This water is used for all purposes, personal ablutions and the washing of clothes invariably taking place in the stream itself. In some cases I found the water supplied for my use to be so thick and putrid as to be useless even after boiling and filtration.

Hygienic precautions with regard to water are now taught in the schools, and it is hoped that the rising generation will profit by them.

Coomassie.—70 scavengers were in daily employment. All refuse was burnt in eight incinerators situated in various parts of the town and cantonments.

General cleanliness was well maintained, and mosquitoes were noticeably scarce. Water is abundant and good.

During the year all wells were covered in with cement and fitted with pumps.

Surface street drains were proceeded with as far as funds permitted.

8,104 animals were slaughtered in Coomassie during the year, overtaxing the capacity of the slaughter-house, which is now inadequate.

Officials were supplied daily with a plentiful supply of vegetables grown from the Government garden, which is under the supervision of the medical officers.

The rainfall was exceptional, being 83·68 inches, as compared with 53·92 inches in 1909.

Obuasi.—On the 1st January an arrangement made between the Government and the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation came into force by which all the contributions collected by the Corporation as rents, &c., are paid over to the Government for the sanitation and policing of Obuasi and the surrounding villages.

The Commissioner of the Southern Province reports that owing to the difficulty in obtaining skilled labour and materials, it was not found possible to do as much as was hoped during the year, but that arrangements have been made to proceed more vigorously in 1911.

Sanitation.—A system of water supply by means of stand-pipes was introduced into Obuasi, and all the old wells, the cause of so much disease, were filled up.

The Commissioner, Southern Province, writes:—"There are twelve stand-pipes in Oubasi village, and the system is shortly to be extended to N'suta. The boon of water at their very doors is thoroughly appreciated by the natives. The supply is an excellent one, and as far as can be judged, ample for its purposes. The dam has a cubic capacity of 45,000 gallons. During 1910 the Sanitary Committee erected a new market, and the principal work of 1911 will be the institution of a drainage system, for which the Senior Medical Officer has promised to provide plans."

The rainfall was 102·60 inches, as against 89·03 inches in 1909.

Kintampo.—Sanitation was well maintained. An incinerator was constructed near the market, and proved very successful.

Rainfall and Temperature.—Rainfall, 75·79 inches; temperature: highest, 158·83; lowest, 125·87. Shade maximum, 99; shade minimum, 60.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Post and telegraph offices were opened during the year at Coomassie, Obuasi, Akrokerri (closed towards the end of year), Sunyani, Kintampo, Nkoranza, and Chichiwere.

There is a daily service of mails between Coomassie and Obuasi and the Coast.

North of Coomassie the mails are despatched to every centre once a week.

The following mail matter was handled:—

	Forwarded.	Registered.	Total.
Letters and post-cards	140,495	158,771	299,266
Book packets and newspapers	1,889	49,276	51,165
Registered articles	19,089	15,231	34,320
Parcels...	1,552	11,440	12,992
Totals	163,025	234,718	397,743

The Post Office receipts on account of sales of stamps amounted to £7,248.

105,796 messages were received and forwarded during the year.

The telegraphic service was subject to many delays, largely owing to interruptions of the lines by falling trees.

The letter service was well maintained.

A telephone system at Obuasi, belonging to the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, is by the courtesy of that body extended to the Government Offices.

RELIGION.

Christianity continued to make slow progress. Missions are conducted by Basel Mission, the Roman Catholics, and the Wesleyans.

Services have been held at intervals at Coomassie and Obuasi by a clergyman of the Church of England.

The Basel Mission has had four Europeans and three native ministers in Ashanti throughout the year. This mission has 29 out-stations.

Members of this church increased in number by 99 during the year.

The Wesleyan Mission has one European in Coomassie, and various native ministers at out-stations.

The Roman Catholics have built a church in Coomassie, and have a considerable number of candidates. There are two European Fathers in charge.

Christians in the villages have had a tendency to refuse the ordinary services to their Chiefs, on the ground that they cannot take part in fetish observances.

The Missions have assisted the Government in enforcing the principle that while Christians are naturally freed from any fetish observances, they must still perform the ordinary obligations and services imposed on them by native custom in which fetish ceremonies are not involved.

In several cases they have formed communities apart from the heathen. This is much to be encouraged as it lessens daily bickering.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Native affairs generally were satisfactory throughout the year—questions as to land boundaries being the only cause of trouble. These must of necessity occur until all unsettled boundaries are defined.

Owing to the small staff, this work will take several years. Meanwhile disputes are, as far as possible, dealt with as their importance and urgency seem to demand.

The Akrokerri-Adansi quarrel, which culminated in a riot in December, 1909, was settled—the Commissioner, Southern Province, hopes finally—by placing a new Chief on the Akrokerri Stool, who swore allegiance to the Adansi Omanhin.

With the exception of these boundary disputes, the native outlook seems very promising. The inhabitants of the Western and Northern Provinces are quiet agricultural people who only ask to be allowed to farm and trade in peace, while the more restless and clever Ashanti proper of the Central and Southern Provinces seem to have definitely adopted trade and the more profitable forms of agriculture, such as cocoa and rubber-growing.

Referring to the contest between youth and authority mentioned in the concluding observations of the 1909 Report, the Administration continued throughout the year to watch and guide the inevitable change, maintaining the rightful authority of the Chiefs, but discouraging retrogression and superstition.

Roads.

The following is an extract from the report on the Coomassie—Tamale Road, supplied by Major Leslie, the Superintendent in charge of the Constructing Department:—

"The establishment during the year has been—1 superintending engineer, 1 first assistant engineer, 1 second assistant engineer, 1 accountant and storekeeper, 1 supervisor, 11 overseers, and 1 fourth grade clerk."

"This shows an increase in the establishment of 1 second assistant engineer and 4 overseers."

"During the whole year there have been present on work—2 executive officers and 8 subordinates in charge of sections, of whom only one subordinate was incapacitated by sickness for a few days."

"The accountant and storekeeper was absent on leave for 5 months and 8 days, his duties being carried out for most of the time by a subordinate."

"Skilled labour has been very scarce, and has occasioned great delays in the construction of culverts and bridges."

"The ordinary labourers are nearly all men from countries other than Ashanti, and come from places so widely apart as Navarro, Accra, Sokoto, and Sierra Leone."

"Half the Pioneer Company, Gold Coast Regiment, under Lieutenant Whittall, was working on the road from August to December."

"*Progress made in* 1910.—On the 1st of January, 1910, the road was made up to formation level from Coomassie to Pankrone (mile 5), and from Kona (mile 16·9) to half a mile beyond Jamasi."

"During 1910, the portion, Pankrone (mile 5) to Kona (mile 16·9) has been completed, and the road has been extended from Jamasi to a point $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles beyond Mampon, a total distance of $23\frac{1}{2}$ miles."

"Some portions, however, of the sections through the range of hills south of Mampon are not complete, and the actual progress of the year may be placed at 22 miles of road to formation level."

"13 miles in Ashanti were made in 1909, so that a total distance of 35 miles in Ashanti is now fit for wheels in dry weather."

"The road is, however, not open throughout for wheeled traffic owing to the fact that the streams Ada, Kunkum, Oyong, and Fako are not bridged. Work at these streams was impossible for most of the year owing to constant floods, and scarcity of skilled labour has delayed work since the rains."

"During the year a considerable number of permanent culverts have been built, the Bettinkru has been bridged, and the bridges over the Aboabo and Siride opened to traffic though not completed. It is hoped that all bridges to Mampon will be completed before the next rains."

"The average cost per mile for constructing to formation is £1,063."

"Total expenditure up to the end of year was £45,931."

District Roads.—All roads are kept clean by the communities through whose lands they pass, in accordance with old custom;

but native roads at best are but mere tracks, without culverts or bridges. An effort was successfully made to improve the main or district roads leading north-west to Kintampo, west to Sunyani, south-west to Isansi, and east to Kwahu.

The sum of £2,963 was spent, partly in paying contractors, partly in giving presents to Chiefs who improved the roads within their boundaries, and partly in issuing tools.

The following mileage was finished:—

Kintampo Road	16	miles
Sunyani Road	60	,,
Isansi Road	12	,,
Kwahu Road	50	,,
	138	

Railways.

Goods traffic on the railway showed the very substantial increase of 3,094 tons, while passenger traffic advanced by 52,323, or over 100 per cent.

It is encouraging to see that advantage is being taken of the facilities given for easier and cheaper intercourse, and the increase seems to justify the reduction in fares that took place in 1909.

Comparative statement of the goods and passenger traffic are appended.

From the 14th November the service from Obuasi to Coomassie was made a daily one, and there is now through connection both ways daily between Seccondee and Coomassie, a distance of 168 miles.

Comparative Statement of Passenger Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1910.

Stations.	1909.		1910.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru	2,923	350	5,356	476	2,433	126	—	—
Obuasi ...	20,814	4,634	41,998	7,535	21,184	2,901	—	—
Akrokerri...	4,912	806	8,829	868	3,917	62	—	—
Bekwai ...	5,100	765	13,177	1,610	8,077	845	—	—
Eduadin ...	1,002	143	1,982	254	980	111	—	—
Coomassie	15,978	5,365	31,710	9,190	15,732	3,825	—	—
Total ...	50,729	12,063	103,052	19,933	52,323	7,870	—	—

Statement of Goods Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1910.

Stations.	1909.		1910.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru	311	400	201	182	—	—	110	218
Obuasi ...	5,271	28,349	6,009	32,144	738	3,795	—	—
Akrokerri...	480	1,113	499	1,209	19	96	—	—
Bekwai ...	255	887	512	2,198	257	1,311	—	—
Eduadin ...	47	49	29	33	—	—	18	16
Coomassie	9,028	55,453	11,108	75,965	2,080	20,512	—	—
Total ...	15,392	86,251	18,358	111,731	3,094	25,714	128	234

Transport Department.

The personnel of this department was the same as 1909, viz:— one assistant transport officer, two clerks, and 352 headmen and carriers.

The department handled 7,117 loads, of which 905 were to Ashanti out-stations, 1,982 for the Northern Territories, and 847 mails and parcels.

1,799 carriers were employed by officials and troops in Ashanti, and 962 transporting officials and troops to and from the Northern Territories.

Immigration and Emigration.

There is little permanent movement of the people.

Large numbers of Mohammedans come down in the dry season from the country to the North for the purposes of trade, returning before the roads get impassable for their pack animals.

There is also a very considerable exodus of Ashantis to Sefwi and the Ivory Coast during the rubber season.

Public Works.

This department was active during the year.

It completed the following buildings:—

Coomassie—

Cantonment Magistrate's Court and Offices
District Engineers' quarters.
The Government Schools and Workshop.
New magazine for Regiment.
Pioneer shop for Regiment.
64 new brick quarters for men
5 Incinerators.

Obuasi—

Post office.
Prison.

Government buildings generally were kept in proper repair.

Coomassie Town.

Extension was rapid, and was especially marked in the European quarter, where the merchants are now erecting large and commodious establishments.

Ground rents rose from £2,062 in 1909 to £2,175 in 1910. 45 new plots were allotted at a rent of £4 per 2,500 feet.

In the Zongo the rate is £4 per plot (75 × 75), which is reduced to £1 in the case of Reservists on the list. No rents were uncollected at the end of the year.

A plan of the town of 50 feet to an inch has been completed in rough, but it is not yet available.

Slaughter-house fees amounted to £659, an increase of £100 on 1909.

Market rents were stationary, as the full amount possible is collected. There is a great need for extended accommodation, for which provision is being made.

The Sanitary Committee constructed three new wells, put concrete tops and pumps on seven wells, and erected two rubbish incinerators, and laid down a considerable quantity of surface drains in the streets where the necessity was great.

Climate.

The climate is hot and humid. The nights are cooler, but the days more oppressive than in the coast towns, where the heat of the sun is tempered by the sea breeze.

Wages.

The pay of labourers keeps firm at 1*s*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. per day.

There is great demand for skilled carpenters, masons, and mechanics, who can command 3*s*. 6*d*. per pay.

Living for Europeans is high and compares unfavourably with the coast towns, the prices of European stores, especially, being excessive.

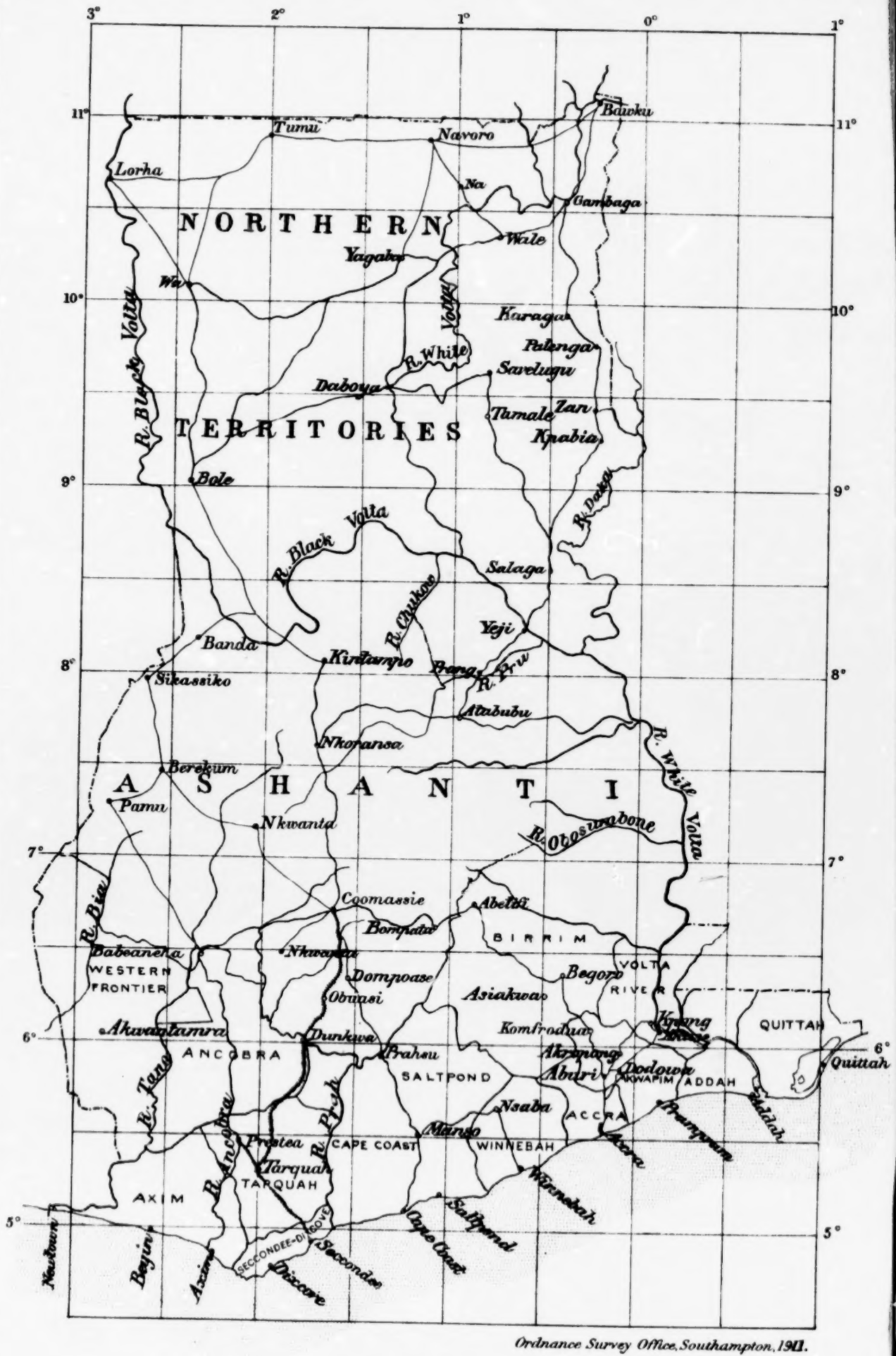
Foreign natives who have been taught to require a few luxuries, find living expensive, but for natives of the farmer and labourer class it is cheap.

Prospects for future Trade.

The prospects for future trade are most encouraging. There is great increase in prosperity, especially in the Southern Province. This is due to the amount of money circulated by the mining companies, and to the profits on cocoa cultivation.

The standard of living is rising constantly, and properly constructed houses are everywhere taking the place of thatched huts.

The younger generation is fast adopting European clothes instead of native cloths, a change to be deplored from every point of view, except that of trade.



Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1911.

Suitability for Europeans.

Europeans are exotics and cannot permanently adapt themselves to the climate, which causes debility after a short period of residence. Any prolonged physical exertion leads to weakening of health and resisting power.

A year is the general period of residence, and with ordinary care and knowledge of tropical conditions, health should not suffer unduly during that time.

Openings for Investments.

The country is not suitable for small investors who have to depend on their own work to make a profit, nor can skilled European mechanics or miners find employment in the country, all such being engaged at home on contract.

Owing to this fact being unknown or ignored there are frequently cases of destitution amongst Europeans.

Changes in the Establishment.

The Chief Commissioner was in Ashanti during the year until December 24th when he went on leave, and Mr. Philbrick was appointed to act.

Captain Armitage was appointed Chief Commissioner, Northern Territories, as from May 25th, Mr. Philbrick being transferred from the Colony in his place, and assuming duty on September 14th.

Captain Breckenridge was appointed Travelling Commissioner from 6th January, 1910; he arrived and assumed duty on the 30th November, 1910.

April 10th, 1911.

Arthur J. Philbrick,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	"
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1911.

Wines and Spirits.—Wines and spirits accounted for 1,389 tons, as against 1,218 for 1910. This, for a population of 300,000, cannot be considered excessive. In fact, the Ashanti is an abstemious person, who regards spirits as part of the ritual for ceremonial occasions.

Dried Fish.—617 tons of dried fish were imported into Ashanti during 1911, as against 270 tons in 1910. The demand for this article is practically unlimited. It is regarded as a luxury by the Ashantis, who can only command a small supply of lake and river fish.

Imports from adjoining Countries.

Cattle.—From the Northern Territories alone Ashanti imported 16,312 head of cattle, against 15,755 in 1910; but these figures are scarcely reliable, inasmuch as traffic on all roads is not checked—only where it happens to pass provincial or district stations—nor are the imports from the Ivory Coast taken into consideration. The total importation of cattle can safely be reckoned as 30,000 head, at an average price of £3 a head: this represents a value of £90,000. 3,960 were slaughtered in Coomassie and 4,245 were exported by rail, leaving a balance of 21,795 for distribution throughout Ashanti and the Colony (exported overland).

Sheep and Goats can be put down at 100,000. This at 5s. a head represents £25,000; of these 2,354 were exported by rail, as against 2,098 in 1910.

Vegetable Products.—Only 8,345 loads of dawa-dawa were officially recorded as having passed into Ashanti, but double that number would be nearer the mark—say, 16,000 loads—at an average cost of 50s. a load. This represents a value of £40,000.

Of shea-butter 3,638 loads were recorded, but the same argument applies to this commodity, say, 7,000 loads at 40s.—£14,000. (This latter article has quadrupled in price in a few years, owing to the large increased local demand.)

A brisk trade in hides has sprung up of late years. They are imported from the cattle countries of the north and north-west. Some £4,000 was paid during 1911 for this article.

An insignificant sum was paid for ivory.

Total value of imports other than by railway may be estimated at:—

	£
Cattle	90,000
Sheep and Goats	25,000
Dawa-dawa	40,000
Shea-butter	14,000
Hides	4,000
Total	£173,000

Exports.

The principal exports were rubber, cocoa, kola, cattle, sheep, and hides.

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1911 was £50,319, as against £37,621 in 1910 and £29,263 in 1909. Increases, compared with the estimates for the year, amounting to £8,234 are shown under nine heads, the principal of which are:—

	£
Firearms and Ammunition	638
Mining royalties	2,640
Obuasi Contribution	3,592
Rents from Government Land	272
Sale of Stamps, &c.	657
Miscellaneous	390

Decreases amounting to £565 appear under ten heads, the principal being:—

	£
Ferry Tolls	188
Spirit Licences	219

The revenue and expenditure of Ashanti for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907	37,249	82,303
1908	27,909	98,580
1909	29,264	102,211
1910	37,621	117,398
1911	50,319	146,317

The revenue quoted is made up of the actual money collected in Ashanti (with the exception of some mining royalties) and does not represent the exact financial position.

All ad valorem and other duties paid on goods consumed in Ashanti are collected at the port of entry and credited to the general revenue of the Colony. This duty is estimated at £80,846 for 1911.

Stamp duties, registration, and survey fees do not appear in the revenue inasmuch as they are paid in the Colony.

The expenditure quoted, on the other hand, includes over seven-tenths of the total cost of the Gold Coast Regiment; also £24,465, the 1911 expenditure on the Coomassie-Tamale Road; besides some £10,000 spent on Public Works.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

A satisfactory expansion of trade is to be recorded for 1911. Imports by railway amounted to 40,610 tons, as against 12,853 for 1910; but 26,612 of these were firewood traffic. The imports represent a gross value of about £500,000.

No. 719.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1910, see No. 680.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Accra,
30th May, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report on Ashanti for the year 1911.

The year was a prosperous and not a very eventful one, so that little or nothing in the report calls for comment.

In connection with the Chief Commissioner's remarks on the friction between native converts and their chiefs, I may say that on my recent tour of inspection I had an interview with representatives of all the religious bodies in Ashanti and have now drafted rules which will, I trust, do much to remove all cause for dissension.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THORBURN,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(2308—2) Wt. 29478—671. 1125 & 90. 8/12. D & S.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 719.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, see No. 680.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

July, 1912.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
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1912.

[Cd. 6007—19.] Price 3d.

1,206 tons of rubber were exported during the year, as against 1,257 in 1910. For this approximately £200,000 was paid in Coomassie and Obuasi.

The reason of the decrease in the quantity exported was mainly due to the natives holding, owing to the depressed prices, and, perhaps, to more attention being paid to the cultivation of cocoa —in the export of which an enormous increase is shown, *i.e.*, 4,170 tons, against 1,914 in 1910, the total value being approximately £200,000.

The decrease in the exports of kola was solely due to the poor yield—904 tons, against 977 in 1910. The natives reckon on one good year in every three—but the yield is greatly influenced by the rainfall. The tree bears three times a year, the first crop being the richest and the third the poorest. Prices fluctuate in consequence, but, generally speaking, the price on the farms remains steady at 5*s.* per 1,000—while in Coomassie it averages:—

6*s.* a thousand for the 1st crop.
7*s.* 6*d.* ,, ,, 2nd ,,
10*s.* ,, ,, 3rd ,,

A load will average 2,000 nuts, or, say, 80,000 to the ton. Thousands upon thousands of loads are carried north, and the nut eventually permeates right across the desert. As an asset to Ashanti, it can be reckoned at £1 for every load exported by human transport, and £40 for every ton exported by railway. £100,000 would not, therefore, appear to be an excessive estimate.

4,245 cattle were exported by rail, at an average value of £5 a head—£21,225. This represents an increase of 711 head as compared with 1910. 2,354 sheep and goats were exported at an average value of 10*s.* each—£1,177. The export of hides was valued at £4,000.

Summary.

Value of Imports:—

	£
From the Coast	500,000
From the North	173,000
	£673,000

Value of Exports:—

	£
Rubber	200,000
Cocoa	200,000
Kola	100,000
Cattle and Sheep exported	22,402
Hides	4,000
	£526,402

To gauge the spending power of the country another £250,000 should be added to the above sum for wages paid by mining companies, merchant firms, and for various public works—thus showing a good £100,000 to the credit of the natives.

The Business of the Bank.

The Bank Manager reports as follows:—

"The business of the bank has steadily progressed during the year under review. This progression is partially due to the ingress of artisans, labourers, &c., from the coast towns, who have been employed on the various new buildings erected during the course of the year. A large amount of money has been paid out in wages to these people, and their putting such into circulation has materially increased the trade of Coomassie. A good number have also settled down as petty traders, which has also been similarly beneficial.

"The demand for gold by cattle traders from the north has steadily increased, and these people know that they can depend upon the bank for any gold which they may require.

"Owing to the action of the Government in waiving the duty on French five-franc pieces, the bank have been enabled to reduce their exchange rate with considerable result, so much so that cattle traders have been induced to come to Coomassie instead of going to foreign colonies as heretofore.

"The kola traders find the bank of great benefit to them especially as their ramifications extend to Nigeria, to which Colony a large proportion of these kolas from Coomassie are exported."

Agriculture.

The Ashantis are turning their attention more and more to agricultural pursuits—cocoa, rubber, and kola nuts being the principal products.

Cocoa.—This plant appears to be particularly liable to various kinds of diseases, such as bark louse, root fungi, &c., &c., and plantations so attacked are often abandoned by their owners, but the latter are gradually learning how to stamp out these pests. The area under cultivation is increasing phenomenally throughout the country and the yield will, it is presumed, increase proportionately when the new trees come into bearing.

Travelling instructors performed excellent work in teaching the people how to cure and prepare generally. Twenty model farms were started, viz.: five in the Central Province, six in the Southern, seven in the Western, and two in the Northern.

It is satisfactory to note that merchants are beginning to "grade" their purchases of this article, in order to encourage the people to bring in better fermented cocoa. This practice may produce a decided improvement in the quality of cocoa exported from Ashanti.

Rubber.—Three agricultural concessions now exist in Ashanti. Some of the mining companies have also obtained surface rights and are planting rubber trees on their concessions. This practically represents the only *cultivated* rubber in the country. As a general rule, the latex collected by the natives is drawn from the wild trees in the forest. In time, no doubt, this source of supply will decrease, but no such indication has been apparent as yet.

Shea-butter.—This commodity is nearly all locally consumed. By far the larger quantity is carried down the Volta River to Kpong by returning salt traders. This export may become one of importance, as it is doubtful whether more than a fraction of the large shea-butter area in the north of Ashanti, as well as in the Northern Territories, is drawn upon.

Cotton has been tried in the western portion of the Northern Province, but was not attended with much success. Ashanti, generally, being a thickly-wooded country, is not suitable for the cultivation of this article.

Tobacco has also been tried on a small scale, with good results in the Central and Northern Provinces.

Agricultural Station.—The area under cultivation at the Agricultural Station at Coomassie was increased.

Para rubber, Funtumia elastica, various kinds of cocoa and coffee, kola nut, camphor, cinnamon, arrow-root, ginger, tobacco, as well as several food-stuffs received attention.

Some 9,600 seedlings were distributed by the Station.

The rainfall at the Station was 68·14 inches.

Mines.

The amount of gold produced during the year was 124,878 ounces, valued at £530,583, as compared with 94,852 ounces, valued at £403,005 in 1910.

The following companies produced gold during 1911:—

Mining

Company.	Fine ounces recovered.	Value. £
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd.	114,790	478,628
Ashanti Quartzite Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	697	2,962
Dredging.		
Ashanti Rivers and Concession, Ltd.	3,973	16,878
Offin River Gold Estates, Ltd. ...	5,418	23,115
Total	124,878	530,583

In addition to the producing companies, prospecting parties were employed in various parts of Ashanti.

The average daily amount of labour employed by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was as follows:—

Origin.	Surface.	Mine.	Total.
Europeans	114	38	152
Natives...	3,337	1,518	4,855
Total	3,451	1,556	5,007

The Ashanti Quartzite Gold Mining Company, Limited, produced gold for the first four months of the year, but as the results were disappointing all work has been stopped.

The Ashanti Goldfields Corporation gave an increased production of 30,758 ounces, valued at £130,663, as compared with their 1910 output of gold.

Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited.

	1911.	1910.
Europeans employed—British ...	136	133
,, ,, Italians ...	16	14
Natives employed	3,495	3,480
Fatal Accidents (including one European)	12	7
Health	Good.	Good.

Ashanti Goldfields Territories, Limited.

	1911.
Europeans employed	14
Non-Europeans employed	Nil.
Natives	471
Fatal Accidents	Nil.
Health	Good.

This Company was not working in 1910.

Offin River Gold Estates, Limited.

	1911.	1910.
Europeans employed—British ...	18 (or average).	34
Non-British	Nil.	Nil.
Natives	286	390
Fatal Accidents	One native (from drowning).	Nil.
Health	Very good.	Very fair.

Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Limited.

	1911.	1910.
Europeans employed—British ...	41	25
,, ,, Germans...	1	Nil.
Natives	2,168	250
Fatal accidents	Nil.	Nil.
Health	Excellent.	Good.

W. A. P. Syndicate.

	1911.	1910.
Europeans employed	6	4
Natives	60	60
Health	Fair.	—

This Company is prospecting.

Ashanti Quartzite Gold Mining Co., Ltd.

	1911.	1910.
Europeans employed—British ...	215	235
Non-British	16	14
Natives	6,480	6,380

Manufactures.

Weaving, pottery, basket-making, and ornamental gold-work are, practically, the only manufactures of the country.

Weaving is all done with hand looms and the yarn used is generally imported. Silk garments of considerable beauty and value are a speciality of Ashanti.

There are many expert goldsmiths in the country, who mainly favour filigree work.

Fisheries.

Lake Busumtchi and the rivers provide fish for local consumption. There is a large and increasing demand for Coast-smoked fish, but the supply is most unreliable and fluctuates considerably.

Imports by railway for 1911 amounted to 517 tons as against 270 tons in 1910.

LEGISLATION.

The following additions and amendments were made under Section 26 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance (No. 1 of 1902), during the year 1911, viz.:—

(*a.*) Addition of the "West African Frontier Force (G.C.R.) Ordinance, 1909 (No. 8 of 1909)"—by Ordinance No. 1 of 1911 (Ashanti).

(*b.*) Amendment of Section 26 of the "Ashanti Administration Ordinance No. 1 of 1902," to incorporate amendments made in the "Parcels Post (Compensation) Ordinance 1889"—by Ordinance No. 2 of 1911 (Ashanti).

(*c.*) Amendment of Section 26 of the "Ashanti Administration Ordinance No. 1 of 1902," to incorporate amendment made in the "Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Ordinance 1892," and addition to the Statute Law of the "Destruction of Mosquitoes Ordinance No. 6 of 1911"—by Ordinance No. 3 of 1911 (Ashanti).

Rules.—The following Rules under Section 27 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, were made and put in force during the year 1911:—

Rules with respect to the Regulation of Towns and Villages—Gazette No. 24 of 1911.

EDUCATION.

The only secular education so far established in Ashanti is a *Government School in Coomasie*. This school has proved a great success ever since its commencement in April, 1909.

It was found unavoidably necessary to refuse admission to many applicants, owing to insufficiency of accommodation. Recruiting, in fact, was rather discouraged than otherwise.

Average Number on Roll	344·66
Average Attendance	224·21
Percentage of Attendance	65·54
Number Admitted	97
Number Left	115

—mainly owing to parents leaving the district.

The regularity of attendance is improving and gives evidence of a growing interest in education, generally, by illiterate parents.

The school was inspected on the 1st and 2nd November, and received a highly gratifying report—all the more so, owing to the fact that the teaching staff was short-handed.

The *Basel Mission* numbers 28 schools throughout Ashanti, with a pupil attendance of 683—an increase of 89 on the figures for 1910—but of these only 199 are Christian, the remainder being heathen children who wish to benefit by the educational advantages held out by the Mission.

The *Roman Catholics* only number a pupil attendance of 110.

The *Wesleyan Mission* has ten day schools with an attendance of 454 males and 49 females on the roll.

There are several Mahommedan schools in the various Hausa settlements—but, besides the Koran, little can be said to be taught therein.

A decided movement in Ashanti in favour of education is noticeable, and many applications for Government schools have been received from chiefs.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.—European hospitals are established at Coomassie and Obuasi, and native hospitals at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Kintampo.

There is no asylum in the Dependency. All violent cases are sent for treatment in Accra.

Savings Bank.—Business in connection with the savings bank has as yet only been confined to Coomassie and Obuasi.

Coomassie numbered 90 depositors with deposits to the value of £1,317 17*s.* 0*d.*—an increase of £47 10*s.* 0*d.*

Obuasi showed a considerable decrease in the number of depositors, *i.e.*, 48 as against 143 in 1910—in spite of which deposits augmented, viz.:—£761 9*s.* 0*d.* against £730 11*s.* 0*d.*

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.—The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on the 31st December, 1911, was 100 as against 102 in 1910.

The Coomassie detachment—consisting of 53 officers and men—effected 592 arrests during the year as against 589.

At Obuasi—where the Police numbers 27 all told—468 arrests were effected as against 529 in the previous year.

The conduct and discipline of the Force, generally, were good.

There were eight constables attached to the Ashanti and Northern Territories Roads Department for special duty during the year.

Besides the above number, five Mines Police served in Ashanti during the greater part of the year: four were employed by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation and one by the Ashanti Quartzite Gold Mining Company; ten Railway Police were stationed in Ashanti—five at Coomassie and five at Obuasi.

These Mines and Railway Police are under the direct control of the Mines and Railway Managers respectively, and their duties are quite distinct from those of the general force.

Prisons.

Coomassie.—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 316. This number includes 6 females. Daily average, 110.

The number of debtor prisoners admitted was 105, viz., 82 males and 23 females.

The number of untried prisoners was 60, 56 males and 4 females.

The crimes committed by the prisoners were as follows:—

Murder	3
Manslaughter	3
Rape	5
Wounding	7
Robbery with violence	4
Burglary	4
Assaults	24
Larceny and other offences	266

The health of the prisoners was good. The admissions into the prison infirmary were 121, and were all for slight cases of illness. There was also one case of death and three executions during the year.

The expenditure was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Permanent warders	584	4	4
Ten Warders	218	8	6
Prison rations	363	8	10
Other charges	29	4	6
Total for the year ...	£1,195	6	2

The nominal earnings were £816 8*s*. 7*d*., while the actual sum realised was £236 18*s*. 6*d*., which sum was paid into the Government Chest.

The prisoners were employed generally on sanitary work, carpentry, laundry, basket-making, &c. Of the sum paid into the chest the greater portion was realised by the laundry work of the prisons.

There were no escapes from the prison, but 14 escaped while working outside, and of these five were recaptured.

The number of prisoners transferred from Coomassie prisons during the year was as follows:—

To the Central Prison, Seccondee:—

Long sentence	18
Short sentence	23

and 17 to Obuasi.

The prison was in charge of Chief Warder J. N. Anthonio, who acted as Keeper of Prison. There were also employed four second-class warders, six third-class warders, and one temporary matron.

There were three dismissals during the year; one second and two third-class warders.

The prison was kept clean and in good order, and prison discipline was, on the whole, good.

Obuasi.—The total number of prisoners committed to the prison was 350, viz.:—23 debtors, 165 untried prisoners, and 162 convicts—male and female. Daily average, 47.

The offences committed were: extortion, wounding, defrauding, stealing, larceny, and other offences.

The offences committed under prison discipline were, generally, of a minor character.

The health of the prisoners was good. There were 17 admissions to the Colonial Hospital, and two deaths during the year.

The expenditure was as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Pay of Permanent Warders ...	272	10	1
Pay of Temporary Warders ...	49	6	3
Other charges	190	18	6

making the total expenditure for the year £512 14*s*. 10*d*.

The nominal earnings show £311 7*s*. 9*d*., and the actual sum earned and paid into the Government Chest was £28 6*s*. 0*d*.

There were two escapes during the year; one of the prisoners, however, was recaptured.

The sanitary condition of the prison was good.

The prison staff consisted of one Chief Warder, three second-class warders, four third-class warders, and three temporary warders.

Sunyani.—There was a daily average of 18·29 prisoners in the gaol during the year.

Health has been good.

The management of the prisoners was, at the commencement of the year, transferred from the control of the Gold Coast Regiment, and a gaoler and temporary warders were appointed under the Prisons Department. The result has been a great improvement in the management and discipline of the gaol, and the work of the convicts has been more satisfactory. The convicts were utilized for sanitary labour and general station work, where, in the construction of roads and buildings they have done useful work. Three cases were admitted to hospital, and the daily average on the sick list was ·142.

Kintampo.—A brick prison capable of holding 28 prisoners was completed and taken over during the year, but had not been occupied up to the end, owing to the matter of arranging for guards.

Criminal Cases.

The following table gives a list of the criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner	56	5	40	11	—
Police Magistrate	1,025	131	890	4	—
District Commissioner, Central Province.	139	26	110	—	3
Commissioner, Southern Province.	855	68	684	99	4
Commissioner, Northern Province.	66	6	47	13	—
Commissioner, Western Province.	185	47	138	—	—
Commissioner, Ejura District.	62	10	52	—	—
Totals	2,388	293	1,961	127	7

an increase of 363 cases as compared with the last year's. This increase is due chiefly to more nuisance cases having been dealt with than in the previous year.

Serious crime was as follows:—

Murder	7
Manslaughter	7
Rape	6
Abduction	2
Slave dealing	3

The following is a list of civil cases disposed of during the year:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	24
Police Magistrate's Court	645
District Commissioner, Central Province	138
Commissioner, Southern Province ...	315
Commissioner, Northern Province ...	56
Commissioner, Western Province ...	207
Commissioner, Ejura District	51
	1,446

showing an increase of 87 as compared with last year's.

Fines and fees of Court amount during the year to £1,936 10*s.* 2*d.*—made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Chief Commissioner's Court ...	224	4	3
Police Magistrate's Court ...	737	15	0
District Commissioner, Central Province	190	12	0
Commissioner, Southern Province	454	12	5
Commissioner, Northern Province	54	4	0
Commissioner, Western Province	223	17	0
Commissioner, Ejura District ...	51	5	6
	£1,936	10	2

The Concessions Court held sixteen sittings during the year. One Certificate of Validity was issued and extensions were granted for the filing of notice in respect of 27 lapsed concessions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The most important event of the year was the taking of the census of the population early in April.

The returns were as follows:—

Province.	Males.		Females.		Christian.	Mohammedan.	Other.	Total.
	Boys.	Men.	Girls.	Women				
Central ...	31,568	38,284	29,353	46,369	4,163	12,643	128,768	145,574
Southern ...	7,354	16,532	7,309	14,555	2,387	593	42,770	45,750
Western ...	13,083	17,318	13,323	16,796	360	4,075	56,085	60,520
Northern ...	7,378	9,714	7,685	11,193	258	3,449	32,263	35,970
Total ...	59,383	81,848	57,670	88,913	7,168	20,760	259,886	287,814

made up as follows:—

Male	141,231
Female	146,583
	287,814
Children	117,053
Adults	170,761
	287,814

Coomassie town numbered 18,853 souls.

It is generally admitted that these numbers do not represent the true state of affairs by, at least, 20 to 25 per cent.—as the returns invariably underestimated the population, probably owing to a nervous feeling with regard to future taxation.

These figures cover an area of, roughly, 20,000 square miles, or a population of 14·4 per square mile.

Compounds numbered 47,955.

Of the above total 223 were Europeans—93 of whom resided in Coomassie.

The total expenditure on the census was £136 3*s*. 1*d*.

Public Health.

The health of the Europeans stationed in Ashanti during the year was good. There was no death amongst the officials, one death of non-officials at Obuasi, and eleven were invalided.

Coomassie.—The daily average of Europeans in Coomassie was:—

Officials	41
Non-officials	37
	78

Invaliding rate was:—

	Per cent.
Officials	5·03
Non-officials	5·19

The Syrians, who number 23, in Coomassie suffer considerably. They live with their wives and children among the native population in more or less a state of squalor. They seldom take quinine, and suffer from malaria in consequence. There were three cases of hæmoglobinuric fever among them—one female and two male cases, one of the latter ending fatally. They were all adults. A child also died of malaria.

There were 57 Europeans treated in Coomassie Hospital, 36 of these were officials and 21 non-officials. Average period spent in hospital, 11 days. Number of non-officials treated in their quarters was 54.

Obuasi.—Invaliding rate of officials and non-officials:—

	Per cent.
Officials	5
Non-officials	4·78

NATIVES.

Officials.—Out of 170 native officials in Ashanti 55 were placed on the sick list. Diseases were not serious.

Coomassie Native Hospital.

Admissions for the year	657	
Deaths for the year	27	
New cases attended to as out-patients:—		
Soldiers	2,818	
Police	291	
Civilians	4,419	
		7,528
Old cases:—		
Soldiers	18,348	
Police	1,422	
Civilians	3,760	
		33,530
Grand total		41,058

The Ashantis have not as yet much faith in European prophylaxis, and trouble our doctors but little, and then only at the eleventh hour. They are eager and anxious for vaccination, however.

Small-pox.—The outbreak of small-pox continued from last year for the first four months of the current year. Thirty-seven cases were treated in the isolation hospital at Coomassie; there were eleven deaths among the cases. During the latter part of the year no cases were reported.

A native public vaccinator has been appointed, who travels through Ashanti vaccinating the people. He has met with marked success, the people willingly presenting themselves for vaccination, about two-thirds of those vaccinated being successful. The vaccine lymph, as supplied from the Government Lymph Establishment, Accra, was found very successful when it was used as soon after receipt as possible. One hundred school children in Coomassie were vaccinated, with 80 per cent. of successful results.

Trypanosomiasis.—Four cases were treated in Coomassie during the year. Among these cases one death occurred; the other three cases disappeared after a period of treatment.

Four more cases were under observation in a village near Coomassie, and after a long course of atoxyl treatment, the parasites disappeared from their blood and the people remain in a healthy condition.

The four soldiers in whom *trypanosomes* were observed in Sunyani during the year 1910, were transferred to Coomassie in May, 1911. No parasites could be found in their blood, and the men are fit and doing their work; they had been under treatment with atoxyl for six months. Two deaths were reported from villages near Kintampo.

The following medical officers were on special sleeping sickness duty at British Kratchi during the year:—Drs. E. J. W. Keigwin, E. Slack, and A. M. Dowdall. Amongst the cases they treated they had three deaths, and five recoveries after long courses of atoxyl. In North-Western Ashanti there were 17 deaths.

Gaols.—The health of the prisoners for the year was good, no serious outbreak of disease occurring in any of the gaols.

Sanitation and Climate.

The sanitation of the four centres of Administration, namely, Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Kintampo, was kept in an efficient state. The incinerators in Coomassie and Obuasi work fairly well, considering the amount of refuse they have to deal with. An incinerator has been built at Kintampo. A permanent gang of 75 scavengers under one inspector and three headmen, was kept busy in looking after the sanitation of Coomassie, as the town is rapidly growing, being now of about 19,000 inhabitants.

Mosquitoes were few in cantonments and in the European quarters, but more numerous in the native quarter.

The Sanitary Department instituted 563 prosecutions during the year, 556 of which resulted in convictions.

Good vegetable gardens were maintained by the Medical Officers at the various stations.

The rainfall in Coomassie was 70·25 inches, as compared with 70·89 inches in 1910, and 53·57 inches in 1909.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Post and telegraph offices were open throughout the year at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani, Kintampo, Nkoranza, Chichiwere, and Attabubu.

There is a daily service of mails between Coomassie and the coast. North of Coomassie mails are despatched once a week to all headquarter stations.

The following mail matter was handled:—

——	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Letters and Post Cards	158,928	172,680	331,608
Book packets and newspapers ...	20,844	78,408	99,252
Registered articles	20,268	13,872	34,140
Parcels	11,736	58,359	70,095
Totals	211,776	323,319	535,095

The Post Office receipts on account of sale of stamps throughout Ashanti amounted to £6,656 as against £7,248 in 1910. The decrease was entirely due to the suspension of the cash-on-delivery system between the Colony and the United Kingdom.

Telegraphic messages to the number of 88,840 were received and forwarded over the wires during the year.

The interruptions, caused by falling trees, complained of in former years were much fewer, and delays were less frequent in consequence.

RELIGION.

Christian proselytism continues to show a steady, if slow, advance.

The Basel, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic Missions represent the Christian Church in Ashanti.

The Basel Mission, with a staff of three European and 36 native ministers of all grades, now numbers a congregation of 1,829 souls—an increase of 68 on 1910—with 31 churches.

The Wesleyan Mission counts one European minister, who resides in Coomassie, one native minister, and 18 native paid agents, with a church membership of 3,593.

Two European priests represent the Roman Catholic Mission. Their church membership is 495, an increase of 230 on 1910.

The total Christian community in Ashanti can be put down at about 6,000 souls, or, approximately, 2 per cent. of the population.

Unfortunately, a considerable amount of friction has recently been caused by Christian converts refusing personal service to their chiefs, on the plea that they cannot be compelled to do violence to their religious feelings. This attitude is, of course, upheld by the Government when any conscientious scruples are involved; but the plea is often nothing more than an excuse to avoid communal or personal obligations, quite distinct from spiritual matters—and the delicacy of the situation may readily be imagined. It has recently been found possible to draw up rules for the guidance of both parties.

As explained in former Reports, the creed of the Ashantis remains "Fetichism," which may be defined as being a somewhat degraded form of "Animism." It endows a multitude of inanimate objects with spirits—generally malignant—and these have to be coaxed and propitiated. Ancestor worship likewise forms an integral part of the Ashanti sociology, and may be deemed the more elevated form of local worship.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Native Affairs.

The only cloud on an otherwise politically serene horizon arose from the ill-feeling caused by Christian converts refusing general or personal service to their chiefs—on more or less plausible pretexts.

There are rights and wrongs on both sides; the Christian convert may sometimes be required to perform services which

do violence to his religious scruples—not often—but his refusal does not improve the relations between himself and his chief, as the latter naturally resents the loss of power and authority, and opposes the movement accordingly.

Rules have lately been drawn up for the guidance of both parties, which, it is hoped, will do much to allay the existing ill-feeling. This takes the shape of spasmodic outbursts of indignation.

Otherwise, native affairs during the year were satisfactory. Indeed, beyond a few local disturbances and perennial boundary disputes, there is nothing to record.

The principal disturbances were:—

A riot between the young men and Elders of Wam (Western Province), and a fight between the chief and people of Juaben (Central Province)—both long since settled.

The most important boundary disputes were:—

The Abodom-Assechere (Southern Province),
Bompata-Asankare (Central Province),
Donyina-Jiachi (Central Province)—

all since settled.

An administrative boundary was fixed between the Western and Northern Provinces by the Chief Commissioner in the month of December.

Two new Native Councils were formed during the year—one in Coomassie (of the representatives of the Omanhenes of the outlying tribes), and one in the Northern Province. These Councils merely exercise advisory powers, but help to keep the administrators in touch with the people and their needs.

The extraordinary success of, and the loyalty and enthusiasm displayed at, the Coronation festivities were highly gratifying to those who have had the opportunity to watch the growing affection of this people towards the Crown.

Roads.

The Superintending Engineer of the Coomassie-Ejura Road reports:—"That the work done during the year amounted to 19·86 miles of road built to formation level, and 6·53 miles cleared and prepared for earthwork or cleared only.

"Bridges brought to completion	3
"Bridges completely built	4
"Bridges partly built	1
"Culverts brought to completion ...	7
"Culverts completely built	44
"Culverts partly built	1

"Total expenditure for 1911, £27,607.

"Total expenditure up to end of 1911, £73,636."

It was originally intended to build this road as far as Tamale—the headquarters of the Northern Territories. It was decided in 1911, however, not to continue the construction past Ejura (61·51 miles from Coomassie), owing to the heavy cost of the work.

District Roads.—During the year some 85 miles of new district roads were built and 78 were guttered and stumped, at a cost of £3,000, £500 of which was expended on tools.

This works out at the rate of about £30 a mile, without taking into consideration the 78 miles of remade roads. When the thickly-wooded nature of the country is taken into consideration, more than full value is realized for the outlay—in fact, the Ashantis may be said to be building their roads free of charge, receiving, in return, presents to encourage the movement.

Total mileage of district roads, 230. These have not, however, been bridged as yet.

Besides the above expenditure, £2,000 was expended on town roads in Coomassie.

Forestry.

During the year two forest reserves were acquired—both in the Central Province; these are known as the Kuwamu-Agogo Reserve, which measures some 160 square miles, and the Chimpor Reserve, which measures some 50 square miles.

A reserve already existed at Banka, in the Southern Province, of about 40 square miles.

No forestry work has yet commenced in these reserves.

The large tract of country between the Obosom and the Sene Rivers, to the north-east of the Central Province, was declared a game reserve.

Railways.

Goods traffic increased from 12,853 tons for 1910 to 40,610 for 1911, but 26,612 of these were firewood traffic. After deducting that amount, the increase in goods carried was 1,145 tons.

Comparative statements of passenger and goods traffic are appended:—

Comparative Statement of Passenger Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1911.

Stations.	1910.		1911.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru	5,356	476	8,604	647	3,248	171	—	—
Obuasi ...	41,998	7,535	58,593	9,390	16,595	1,855	—	—
Akrokerri ...	8,829	868	14,377	1,156	5,548	288	—	—
Bekwai ...	13,177	1,610	22,351	2,533	9,174	923	—	—
Eduadin ...	1,982	254	3,667	327	1,685	73	—	—
Coomassie ...	31,710	9,190	42,104	10,934	10,394	1,744	—	—
Total ...	103,052	19,933	149,696	24,987	46,644	5,054	—	—

Statement of Goods Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1911.

Stations.	1910.		1911.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.	Tons.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
Jim Abufru	201	182	24,546	366	24,345	184	—	—
Obuasi ...	6,009	32,144	33,100	32,929	27,091	785	—	—
Akrokerri ...	499	1,209	861	1,527	362	318	—	—
Bekwai ...	512	2,198	1,235	3,837	723	1,639	—	—
Eduadin ...	29	33	55	23	26	—	—	10
Coomassie ...	11,108	75,965	13,995	80,733	2,887	4,768	—	—
Total ...	18,358	111,731	73,792	119,415	55,434	7,694	—	10

Decrease in freight, as compared with increase in tonnage, was due to special reduced rates during the year. Total tonnage includes 50,941 tons hauled from firewood traffic, none of which was shown in 1910 statement.

Transport Department.

The staff of the department in Coomassie consisted of—One assistant transport officer, two clerks, two overseers, 16 headmen, and 384 carriers—a slight increase on 1910.

Of the sixteen gangs, seven were allocated to Ashanti and the remainder for transport of stores and officers and mails to the Northern Territories.

Total number of loads distributed in Coomassie	3,645
Number sent to Ashanti Outstations	1,290
Number employed carrying officers and troops in Ashanti	1,527
Number of loads sent to Northern Territories ...	1,861
Number employed carrying officers and troops to the Northern Territories	1,140
Number employed on mail service	1,120
Grand total	10,583

Immigration and Emigration.

The Census returned an alien or Mohammedan population of 20,760—10,695 of whom reside in Coomassie. These are all up-country people, attracted down to a developing trade centre by the prospect of lucrative barter.

This trading population varies with the seasons of the year, and fluctuates considerably in consequence.

By far the largest movement takes place during the dry season —November to April—after which it dwindles to small proportions.

There is practically no emigration from Ashanti.

Public Works.

The following is a list of works completed during the year:—

Coomassie:—

Powder Magazine.
Structural alterations to Officers' Quarters—2 bungalows completed.
Gold Coast Regiment Soldier Lines—Hut to accommodate 128 men.
Sleeping Sickness Hospital.
Officers' Mess Cold Store.
Workshop—Government School.
Nursing Sister's Quarters—commenced.
Road and drainage work was also carried out in the town.

Kintampo:—

New Prison—completed.
Slaughter-house—completed.
District Commissioner's Office—completed.
Provincial Commissioner's Quarters—commenced.
District Commissioner's Quarters—commenced.
Native Hospital—commenced.
Post and Telegraph Office—commenced.

Coomassie Town.

The extension of the town still continued—not, perhaps, as fast as might have been, owing to the want of a finished survey of the town. Several applications for plots were refused, as it was considered unsafe to grant sites in unsurveyed localities.

Fifty new plots were measured out and allotted.

Rent from Government plots amount to £2,475—an increase of £300 on 1910. Of that, £620 was collected from the "Zongo." Market rents produced £203. Slaughter-house fees £694—an increase of £36.

3,960 cattle, 1,142 sheep, 2,572 goats, and 287 pigs were slaughtered during the year.

Plots are extremely popular in the European mercantile quarter. Several substantial and imposing buildings were completed during the year by European firms.

104 permits to build were issued. During the year the town was partly surveyed with a view to a comprehensive drainage scheme.

The drainage of several streets and the building of several culverts and other "town improvements" were carried out by the Sanitary Committee. The main road through the town was graded by the Ashanti and Northern Territories Roads Department, thus connecting the Station with the Coomassie-Ejura Road.

Wages.

For ordinary labourers the rate of pay averages 1*s*. a day. Skilled artisans, such as carpenters, masons, and mechanics, command from 3*s*. to 5*s*. a day.

Railway freights enhance the cost of all imported foodstuffs; while the prices of native produce compare favourably with those in the Colony.

Prospects for Future Trade.

Reports from all parts of Ashanti with regard to the future prospects of trade are optimistic. Traders are permeating more and more into the interior, and the mere fact of the existence of the Coomassie-Ejura Road has caused a decided expansion in the cocoa trade, as European firms have opened up agencies along the road and are now procuring produce which indolence or apathy might otherwise have overlooked.

The standard of living among all classes is steadily rising, and more wants are being developed day by day by the people.

Suitability for Europeans.

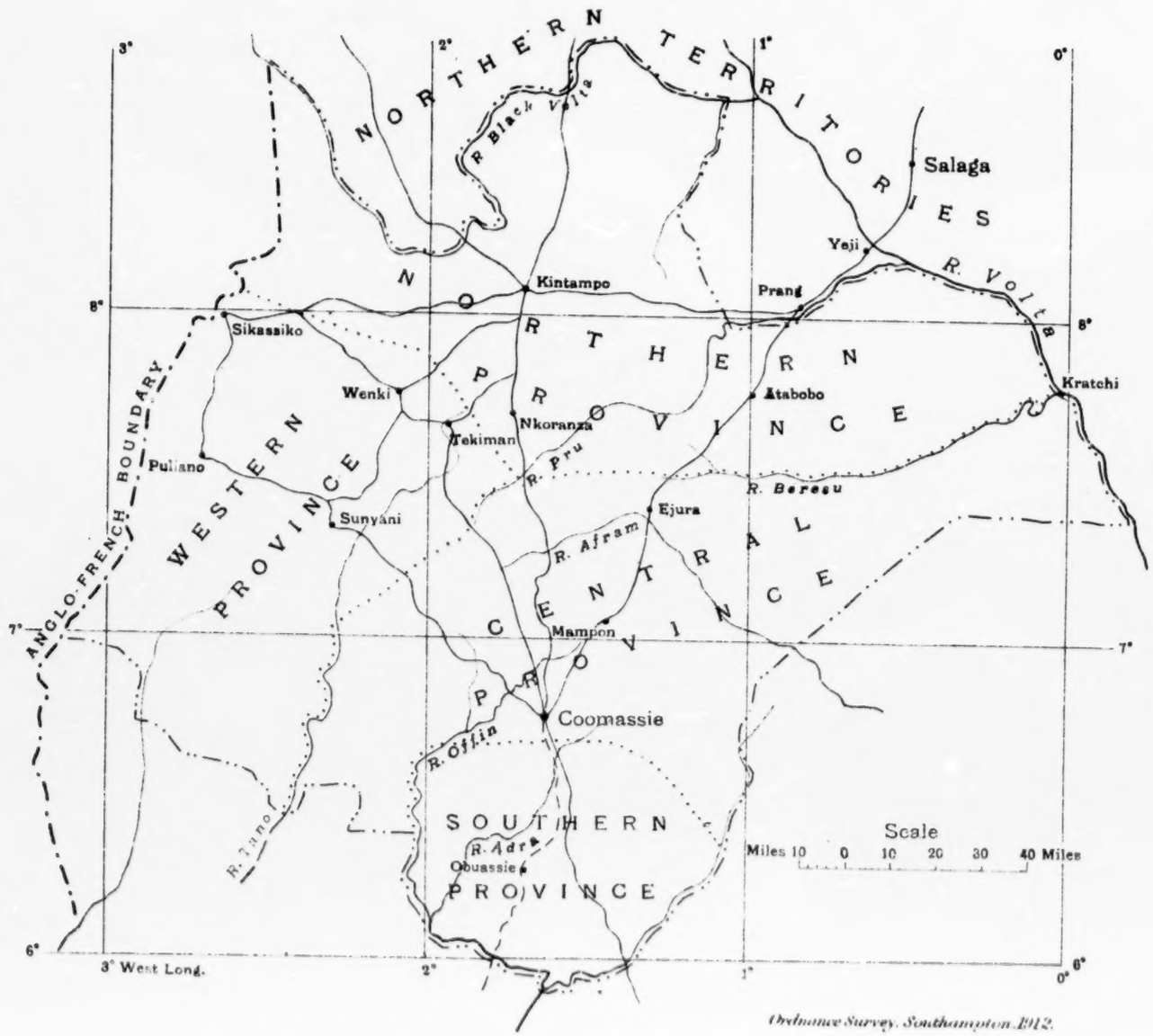
The climate of Ashanti is not suitable for permanent European settlement, and no European should arrive in the country without definite employment.

The European community consists almost exclusively of Government officials, merchants, and miners—with a small sprinkling of missionaries. The average continuous stay in the country is of twelve months' duration, although many of the mercantile community exceed that period.

Openings for Investments.

General trading, gold-mining, and (latterly) rubber and cocoa planting are practically the only undertakings embarked upon by Europeans. The country is certainly not suitable for small investors, and all work in connection with the tilling of the soil must be left to the native of the country.

MAP OF ASHANTI



Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1912.

CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Chief Commissioner returned from leave of absence in the month of June.

Mr. Philbrick then took charge of the Southern Province until the month of November, when he was relieved by Major Rew.

The Western Province was in charge of Mr. Pott until the month of May, when Mr. Fell relieved him.

The Northern Province was administered by Captain Hobart, Mr. Griffith, and Captain Breckenridge respectively.

Mr. Grimshaw, Police Magistrate, Coomassie, was promoted Provincial Commissioner in the Colony, and Mr. Michelin was appointed in his stead.

Three Assistant District Commissioners were appointed during the year.

J. C. FULLER,
Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

Coomassie,
April 23rd, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
691	Hong Kong ...	1910
692	Nyasaland ...	1910–1911
693	Seychelles ...	1910
694	Sierra Leone ...	"
695	Southern Nigeria ...	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate ...	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago ...	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana ...	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria ...	"
705	East Africa Protectorate ...	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate ...	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements ...	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands ...	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Surveys, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey. 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute ...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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Part 9

No. 771.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 719.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1913.

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No. 771.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 719.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Accra,
26th August, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on Ashanti for the year 1912, which has been prepared by the Chief Commissioner, Mr. F. C. Fuller, C.M.G.

2. The revenue for the year under review amounted to £50,265, which is practically the same as that for 1911.

3. The expenditure for 1912 amounted to £148,685, as against £146,317 in 1911.

4. As regards the revenue, however, it must be remembered that all customs dues collected on imports consumed in Ashanti are included in the revenue returns of the Colony, and do not appear in the accounts to the credit of the Protectorate. Similarly, as regards expenditure, 70 per cent. of the total cost of the Gold Coast Regiment (£49,670 out of £69,580) is shown as expenditure on account of Ashanti. At one time doubtless this charge could fairly be classed as part of the expenditure which the assumption of the administration of Ashanti by the Government of the Gold Coast threw upon the revenues of the Colony; but to-day the situation has changed. Having regard to the geographical and strategical position of this Colony, it will always, it is probable, be necessary to maintain the Gold Coast Regiment at approximately its present strength, for considerations which are quite apart from the maintenance of law and order within our borders. That the presence of this force is now specially required in order to support the authority of the Chief Commissioner and his officers in Ashanti itself, or that it is needed for the preservation of order in Ashanti to a degree markedly greater than in other parts of the Colony and its dependencies, are contentions which can, I think, no longer be successfully maintained. Coomassie is, however, and will continue to be, the most central and convenient place for the headquarters of the regiment, and for convenience of accounting the greater part of our military expenditure will therefore be charged against the Protectorate. It is only fair, however, to place it on record that this course is dictated by convenience, and not by any local necessity.

(31773—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 10/13. D & S.

5. On the other hand, I differ from the Chief Commissioner, who considers that the Northern Territories should be debited with a portion of the £11,751 on account of the so-called Ashanti and Northern Territories Roads Department. The whole of the Ejura Road, which is under the charge of that Department, lies within Ashanti territory, and except that it leads in the direction of the Northern Territories it has no connection with the administration of that Dependency.

6. Accepting the Chief Commissioner's estimate of £90,000 on account of customs duties collected in the Colony on goods consumed in Ashanti, adding this to the revenue actually brought to account, and deducting the cost of the Gold Coast Regiment (£49,670) from the expenditure of the Protectorate, it will be found that a considerable excess of revenue over expenditure results; and this, I think, may be regarded as a more accurate representation of the actual state of the financial position of Ashanti than that disclosed by the figures given in the Report.

7. The trade statistics for 1912 are satisfactory. The gross value of the imports conveyed into Ashanti by rail exceeded half a million pounds sterling; the value of imports brought into the Protectorate otherwise than by rail amounted to £245,000; while about £25,000 worth was imported by natives. This makes a total value of £770,000.

8. The value of the exports (other than gold) amounted to £616,750 during the year under review, and in this connection it is satisfactory to note the progress which cocoa-cultivation is making in Ashanti. The value of the cocoa exported during 1912 amounted to £230,000.

9. The value of the gold produced during the year under review amounted to £517,893.

10. Education, I feel sure you will note with satisfaction, is making steady progress in Ashanti, and I hope during 1914 to increase the school accommodation at Coomassie to meet a rapidly growing demand.

11. I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record the highly favourable impression which I formed, during my recent visit to Ashanti, of the excellent relations which appear to exist between the Chief Commissioner and his administrative officers and the native chiefs and people. The confidence of the latter seems to have been won with a completeness which does much credit to Mr. Fuller, and to the administrative officers who are co-operating with him.

I have, &c.,

HUGH CLIFFORD,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.,

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1912 was £50,265, as against £50,319 in 1911 and £37,621 in 1910.

Increases, compared with the Estimates for the year, amounting to £5,093, are shown under nine heads, the principal of which are:—

	£
Firearms and Ammunition	368
Court Fines and Fees	426
Mining Royalties	3,410
Rents from Government Land	161
Miscellaneous	446
Kraal Fees	274

Decreases, amounting to £2,328, appear under eleven heads, the principal being:—

	£
Spirit Licences	1,210
Market and Slaughter House Fees ...	114
Sale of Stamps	735

The revenue and expenditure of Ashanti for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908	27,909	98,580
1909	29,264	102,211
1910	37,621	117,398
1911	50,319	146,317
1912	50,265	148,685

The revenue quoted represents (with the exception of mining royalties) actual moneys collected in Ashanti and does not include any *ad valorem* duties on goods consumed in Ashanti. This duty is estimated at £90,000.

Stamp duties, registration and survey fees are likewise not shown, as these are paid in the Colony. On the other hand, the expenditure quoted includes 70 per cent. of the total cost of the Gold Coast Regiment, *i.e.*, £49,670 out of £69,580, and all Public Works Extraordinary, including £11,751 under the Ashanti and Northern Territories Roads Department.

In reality, therefore, the Dependency more than pays its way, for it was able to contribute some £140,000 to pay to the public revenue to meet an unduly inflated expenditure (to wit, 70 per cent. of the total military cost) which for convenience of accounting is debited to the Dependency.

During the year a West African nickel coinage was introduced, comprising pennies, half-pennies and one-tenth pennies. The coins have a centre hole to facilitate stringing them together. Their popularity was immediate and the demand for them is steadily increasing. Some £250 in nickel coins was issued during the year.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

Imports by railway amounted to 16,469 tons, as against 13,998 in 1911, an increase of 2,471 tons.

The imports represent a gross value of over £500,000.

Wines and Spirits.—Wines and spirits accounted for 1,520 tons, as against 1,389 in 1911, an increase of 131 tons. This can be explained by the growing prosperity of the country, and the advent of more coast natives in search of employment as skilled artizans.

Dried Fish.—999 tons were imported during the year as against 517 in 1911. This large expansion was only to be expected owing to the popularity of this fish as an article of diet. The demand is only limited by the supply on the coast, which naturally varies according to years and seasons. The fish averaged in value about £25 a ton.

Imports from adjoining Countries.

Cattle.—A marked increase in the number of cattle imported into Ashanti can be recorded. Over 40,000 head found their way from and through the Northern Territories. Of these 4,154 were slaughtered in Coomassie, as against 3,960 in 1911. 1,967 were slaughtered at the remaining headquarter stations in Ashanti and 3,344 were re-exported by railway.

There was a slight decrease in the trade with the Ivory Coast. The trade in cattle indigenous to the Northern Territories is still very small, only 491 non-humped cattle having arrived in Coomassie.

Several Moors from the Sun country imported cattle from the Timbuctoo district, but the vast majority of the animals come from French Moshi country north of the Northern Territories. Prices fluctuated between £3 to £9 according to seasons and number in the market for sale. An average of £4 can be safely taken, which means a value of £160,000.

Sheep and Goats.—Importation of sheep and goats showed a slight decrease. 75,000 came from the Northern Territories against 82,000 in 1911. Of these, 3,652 were slaughtered in Coomassie, 1,619 at other headquarter stations, and 2,519 exported by rail. This represents, roughly speaking, a spending power of £20,000

Vegetable Products.—Trade statistics record an increase in the number of loads from the Northern Territories. The principal items were dawa-dawa (8,248), shea-butter (11,346), native cloths (9,405), and miscellaneous (22,467).

The average price of a load of dawa-dawa was 50*s.*, of shea-butter, £1, and of native cloths, £10.

It is impossible to gauge the average of miscellaneous loads, but the whole trade in all the above mentioned articles can be safely valued at £10,000.

The trade in hides more than doubled itself in 1912. Whereas some £4,000 was paid out by the merchant firms for hides in 1911, over £8,750 worth was purchased in 1912.

An export trade in millet has suddenly sprung up in the Kratchi district, and is well worth encouraging. This article of food fetches a price ranging from 12*s*. 6*d*. to 16*s*. a bag at Kpong and Addah. 694 bags were exported in 1912, as against 64 in 1911.

Total value of imports other than by railway may be estimated at:—

	£
Cattle	160,000
Sheep and Goats	20,000
Dawa-dawa	20,000
Shea butter	12,000
Native Cloths	9,000
Hides	8,750
Miscellaneous, say	15,250
Total	£245,000

Exports.

The principal exports were rubber, cocoa, kola, cattle, sheep, and hides.

Rubber.—952 tons of rubber were exported by rail in 1912, as against 1,206 in 1911, representing a purchasing power of £160,000. The decrease was due to the systematic overtapping of the wild rubber trees that has been carried out by the natives ever since the industry commenced. A few of the chiefs had the foresight to stop all tapping on their lands, in order to avert wholesale destruction. This may have a good effect and tend to resuscitate the failing supply.

Cocoa.—The amount of cocoa exported was 5,337 tons, against 4,170 tons in 1911 and 1,914 in 1910. This means an increase of 26·4 per cent over 1911. According to average prices paid by the mercantile firms, this industry was worth about £230,000 to the natives in 1912.

Kola.—The demand for these nuts is ever on the increase, especially in the Nigerias, where improved transport facilities are every day opening up a wider area for this favourite form of stimulant. 1,353 tons were exported by rail in 1912, against 904 in 1911, nor has there been any noticeable decrease of the human-borne kola loads to the north. A cursory checking gave over 10,000 loads as having been exported from Ejura alone. Kintampo, Wenchi, and Sikasiko would all number as many loads, and Wenchi would probably greatly exceed that number. At a rough estimate, 50,000 head loads left Ashanti during 1912, representing a value of £1 per load. This would about equal the export by rail, as 1,353 tons represent 54,120 head loads (reckoned at 40 to the ton) and a value of £54,120.

Cattle and Sheep.—3,344 cattle were exported by rail, representing, at an average of £5 a head, £16,720, and 2,519 sheep at 10*s.* = £1,259, say a total under this head of £18,000.

The export of *Hides* was valued at £8,750.

Summary.

Value of Imports:—

	£
From the Coast	
By European Firms	500,000
By Natives	25,000
From Adjoining Countries	245,000
Total	£770,000

Value of Exports:—

	£
Rubber	160,000
Cocoa	230,000
Kola	100,000
Cattle and Sheep exported	18,000
Hides	8,750
Total	£616,750

Business of the Bank.

The Bank Manager reports as follows:—

"An increase in business is still maintained. The cause of this increase is due to a considerable extent to the expansion of petty trade. With the pacific state of Ashanti, and the natural aptitude of the natives for trade, such an expansion must inevitably happen. This trade is dependent, to a certain degree, on the amount of cash disbursed during the produce season, and a considerable sum has been put into circulation this year. The most important increase under this heading was the growth of the dried fish trade. The remittances received from these traders were as much again as those of the previous year, and a still further increase is anticipated.

"Diverting to other business, the exchange of gold and dollars nearly doubled that of the previous year. The supply has been well financed, and both the cattle traders and natives from the Northern Territories have taken advantage of these facilities.

"The kola traders transacted a considerable business through the bank's Southern Nigeria branches, and this trade shows an inclination to increase."

AGRICULTURE.

The chief interest of the natives now lies in this direction. Every year sees more new land under cultivation, mainly with *Cocoa.* The majority of the trees are as yet, however, too young to bear fruit. This is the reason why only an increase of 26 per

cent. is shown in the export of this article for 1912 over that of 1911, but a great expansion is now taking place, and may be confidently looked forward to.

Travelling inspectors were constantly at work throughout the year, instructing the people how to care for their plantations and stamp out disease, but so far only a few farmers have taken the teachings to heart. Generally speaking, the quality of cocoa produced appears to satisfy mercantile requirements.

Rubber.—The planting of Funtumia trees in cocoa farms is becoming general, while in certain districts plots are entirely devoted to this plant. But the trees are all too young as yet to be tapped.

Para trees (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) are becoming more popular among the natives and several small plantations have been established.

The export of rubber decreased in 1912 by 254 tons (952, against 1,206 in 1911). This was all so-called "wild rubber," *i.e.*, obtained from forest trees. Owing to overtapping, this supply will inevitably decrease and will, it is hoped, be gradually replaced and superseded by plantation rubber.

Kola.—The nut yielded by this tree is in universal demand throughout tropical Africa. In fact, it is safe to say that, unless the plant is largely cultivated on plantations, the supply will never equal the demand. The Ashantis trust to their rich forest belt of kola trees.

Although numbering many millions of trees, doubts are entertained as to whether the limit of supply has not been reached. In any case, no considerable increase on the present export (about 3,000 tons) need be expected.

Tobacco and Cotton have so far only been tried experimentally on a small scale. Proper curing presents a difficulty in the production of the former, while the thickly wooded nature of the country is not suitable to the cultivation of the latter.

Shea butter.—So far this commodity is nearly all locally consumed. The quantity produced remains, therefore, about stationary, but vast supplies exist in the north that have not yet been exploited.

Agricultural Station.

The *Cocoa Section* consists of 25 acres planted out with several varieties, namely, Amelonado, Cundeamor, Criollo and Ocumare. The trees in bearing pod freely and gave good results.

The *Rubber Section* comprised some 85 acres—55 of which are planted out with Para trees, the remainder being devoted to *Funtumia elastica*.

The Para variety gave much more satisfactory results, although only a few of the trees are tappable as yet. Funtumia evidently requires forest conditions to thrive well.

Coffee, tobacco, ground-nuts, arrow-root, sugar-cane and various timbers, spices and fruits were successfully grown at the station.

The rainfall for the year was 50·53 inches, the lowest rainfall on record since the establishment of the station in 1907.

MINES.

The amount of gold produced during the year was 121,914·55 ounces, valued at £517,893, as compared with 124,878 ounces, valued at £530,583, in 1911.

The following companies produced gold during the year:—

A.—*Mining.*

	Fine gold.	Value. £
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd.	114,456·36	486,211
B.—*Dredging.*		
Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Ltd.	2,264·18	9,618
Ofin River Gold Estates, Ltd.... ...	5,194·01	22,064
Total	121,914·55	£517,893

The amount of labour employed daily by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was:—

—	Surface.	Mine.	Total.
Europeans	106	44	150
Natives	2,904	1,364	4,268
Total	3,010	1,408	4,418

During the year prospecting work was carried out by the Ashanti Goldfields Territories, Limited, and on the conglomerate reefs in eastern Ashanti by the Gold Coast Explorers and W. A. Pritchard and Co., Ltd.

Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited.

	1912.	1911.
Europeans employed—British ...	134	136
,, ,, Italians ...	18	16
Natives employed	3,400	3,495
Total accidents	7	12
Health	Good.	Good.

Ashanti Goldfields Territories, Limited.

	1912.	1911.
Europeans employed	19	14
Natives employed	326	471
Accidents	Nil.	Nil.
Health	Good.	Good.

Ashanti Rivers and Concession, Limited.

	1912.	1911.
Europeans employed	20	41
Natives employed	465	2,668
Accidents	Nil.	Nil.
Health	Good.	Good.

Ofin River Gold Estates, Limited.

	1912.	1911.
Europeans employed	28	18
Natives employed	250	286
Health	Good.	Good.

W. A. P. Company, Limited.

	1912.	1911.
Europeans employed	4	6
Natives employed	150	60
Health	Good.	Fair.
Prospecting only.		
Total Europeans employed ...	223	231
Total natives employed	4,591	6,500

MANUFACTURES.

The staple manufactures continue to be weaving, pottery, basket-making and ornamental gold work.

Weaving is all done with hand looms, the yarn being generally imported. Silk garments of considerable beauty and value are a speciality of Ashanti.

204 men were licensed as goldsmiths during the year. Their work is both delicate and unique.

FISHERIES.

The only local fish obtainable is from Lake Busumtchi and a few of the rivers. The demand for coast-smoked fish is much on the increase owing to the paucity of the local fresh fish supply.

Imports by railway for 1912 amounted to 999 tons, as against 517 tons in 1911 and 270 tons in 1910.

LEGISLATION.

Six additions or amendments were made under Section 26 of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance (No. 1 of 1902) during the year 1912.

EDUCATION.

The Coomassie Government School continued on a course of uninterrupted success, as it has since its inception in 1909. Twice the number of scholars could be recruited were the school accom-

modation sufficiently enlarged. Children were refused admission day after day, so eager are the Ashantis to obtain the advantage of secular education for their children.

Although the seating accommodation falls short of 300, the number of scholars on the roll was 346, with an average attendance of 235, or 69·5 per cent. While the number on the roll has remained practically constant the percentage attendance has steadily increased.

The teaching staff consisted of a native teacher and six assistants. There was no European schoolmaster during the year, owing to the vacancy caused by Mr. Gardiner's promotion not having been filled.

Useful agricultural instruction is given to the pupils and the general result of the school is highly gratifying.

A primary Government school was opened at Sunyani in April. Fifty children were enrolled on the register, who showed an average attendance of 79 per cent. The school was inspected by the Director of Education in October, and the progress of the children satisfactorily reported upon. The success of the school was assured from its inauguration.

The Basel Mission now numbers 26 schools throughout Ashanti with a pupil attendance of 850—a decrease of 33 on 1911. Of these 196 are Christian and 454 heathen. Five of the schools fall under the category of "Assisted" schools, *i.e.*, receive Government Grants in aid in proportion to proficiency attained.

The Wesleyan Mission has 18 schools in Ashanti, with a pupil attendance of about 740. (Exact figures were not reported.)

The Roman Catholic Mission has as yet only three schools in Ashanti, one at Coomassie, and two in Obuasi, with a pupil attendance of 180.

Several *Mahommedan* schools exist at various Hausa and north country settlements, but little besides the Koran is taught to the children.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.—European hospitals are established at Coomassie and Obuasi: native hospitals at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani and Kintampo.

There is no asylum in the Dependency. Violent cases of dementia are sent to Accra for treatment.

Savings Bank.—Savings banks are as yet confined to Coomassie and Obuasi. Coomassie numbered 185 depositors, with deposits to the value of £1,403 8*s.* 0*d.*, as against £1,317 17*s.* 0*d.* in 1911. Obuasi again shows a falling off in the number of permanent depositors, *i.e.*, 37 against 48, but an increase in value of deposits, *i.e.*, £940 18*s.* 0*d.* against £761 9*s.* 0*d.* in 1911.

The total number of depositors—including casuals—was 412.

POLICE.

The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on 31st December, 1912, was 105 as against 100 on the 31st December, 1911.

The Coomassie Detachment—consisting of 62 officers and men—effected 690 arrests during the year as against 592 in 1911.

At Obuasi there were 268 police prosecutions as against 468 in 1911, a decrease of 200 cases.

The discipline and general conduct of the police were satisfactory.

The Mines Police stationed in Ashanti consisted of two non-commissioned officers and three constables. They were stationed at Obuasi, and their duties were solely confined to work for the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited.

The Railway Police stationed in Ashanti consisted of two sergeants and six constables distributed between Coomassie and Obuasi. Their duties are entirely connected with railway matters.

PRISONS.

Coomassie.—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 347. This includes seven females. The daily average was 96. The number of debtor prisoners admitted was 78, viz., 55 males and 23 females. The number of untried prisoners was 74 males and 7 females.

The crimes committed by the prisoners were as follows:—

Murder	4
Manslaughter	6
Rape	7
Wounding	15
Robbery with violence	2
Burglary	1
Assault	40
Larceny and other offences	272

The health of the prisoners was good. Admissions into the prison infirmary were 44, all for slight cases of illness. There were also three cases of death from disease and three executions.

The prisoners were employed on sanitary work, carpentry, laundry and basket-making.

One prisoner escaped from the prison. Six escaped while working outside; of these one was recaptured.

The number of prisoners transferred from Coomassie Prison during the year was as follows:—15 long-sentenced convicts to Central Prison, Seccondee, eight short-sentenced men to Fort Orange, Seccondee, and 13 to Obuasi.

The prison was kept in good order and discipline well maintained.

Obuasi.—The total number of prisoners committed to prison was 376, *i.e.*, 147 convicts, 215 untried, and 14 debtors; daily average, 56.

The offences committed were larceny, defrauding, extortion, wounding, and other offences.

The health of the prisoners was fair: there were 50 admissions to the Colonial Hospital and 2 deaths during the year.

There were five escapes during the year and five recaptures.

The sanitary condition of the prison was good and discipline well maintained.

Sunyani.—The total number of prisoners for the year was 80 with a daily average of 17·02. The health was satisfactory.

There were also 13 debtor prisoners. One prisoner escaped, but was recaptured.

Prison labour is employed on sanitation and station work generally.

Kintampo.—A total number of 61 prisoners were admitted into the Kintampo gaol during 1912. They were employed on usual sanitary work.

CRIMINAL CASES.

The following table gives a list of the criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner	64	8	46	10	—
Police Magistrate	1,476	172	1,291	13	—
District Commissioner, Central Province.	82	9	60	4	9
Commissioner, Southern Province.	685	91	590	—	4
Commissioner, Northern Province.	160	36	121	—	3
Commissioner, Western Province.	211	60	149	—	2
Commissioner, Ejura District.	120	24	96	—	—
Total	2,798	400	2,353	27	18

an increase of 410 over last year, due chiefly to the disposal of more nuisance cases than in the previous year.

Serious crime was as follows:—

Murder	5
Manslaughter	16
Rape	8
Abduction	5
Slave dealing	7

1,721 civil cases were disposed of during the year, showing an increase of 275 as compared with 1911.

The fees and fines of Court during the year amounted to £2,485 12*s.* 1*d.*, an increase of £549 1*s.* 11*d.* over last year.

The Concessions Court held 18 sittings during the year, 11 Certificates of Validity were issued, and extensions were granted for the filing of notice under Section 9 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance of 1903 in respect of six lapsed concessions.

Ten concessions were abandoned and one was terminated for non-payment of rent under Section 26 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The census of 1911 gave a total population for Ashanti of 287,814 souls, made up as follows:—

Male	141,231
Female	146,583
	287,814
Children	117,053
Adults	170,761
	287,814

The town of Coomassie numbers roughly 19,000 souls.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

A marked improvement in the general health of the community can be recorded for 1912.

One European official died in Coomassie after a stay of one week in West Africa. One death occurred in Obuasi of a non-official, due to accident, and one at Sunyani, of acute dysentery.

The number of Europeans resident in Ashanti during the year was 470, made up as follows:—147 officials, 2 wives of officials, 8 missionaries, 3 wives of missionaries, 310 miners and merchants.

The daily average of Europeans in Coomassie was:—

Officials	44
Non-officials	40

The total number of officials on the sick list during the year was 103.

Four officials were invalided during the year and nine non-officials.

The invaliding rate for the whole of Ashanti was:—

	Per cent.
Officials	2·7
Non-officials	2·9

as compared with 5·03 and 5·19 per cent. for 1911.

The Syrians, who numbered 34, continue to live in the unhealthy conditions they seem to prefer. They had two deaths amongst their number.

The total number of cases treated in the European hospital, Coomassie, was 50. Of these 44 were officials and six non-officials. Non-officials treated in their quarters numbered 42.

Natives.

Officials.—The number of native officials for the year was 80. Thirty-two of these were placed on the sick list.

Non-officials.—Coomassie Hospital.

Admissions for the year	1,028	
Deaths	22	
New cases as out-patients:—		
Soldiers	2,933	
Police	49	
Civilians	3,787	
	——	6,869
Old cases:—		
Soldiers	6,558	
Police	231	
Civilians	9,009	
	——	15,798
Total cases		22,667

as against 41,058 in 1911.

Patients treated at Obuasi	896
Patients treated at Kintampo	567
Patients treated at Sunyani	1,156
Grand total	25,286

Small-pox.—Ashanti, remarkable to relate, kept free from small-pox in 1912. Obuasi was the only station where a mild case occurred, but chicken-pox was fairly prevalent—81 cases being treated in Coomassie.

The public vaccinator still continues his work, but owing to the absence of the disease people were not so ready to submit to treatment as they are during an outbreak. The dried lymph, when not kept too long, is successful.

Trypanosomiasis.—Four cases were treated as in-patients in Coomassie Hospital. They left the hospital when they showed improvement under atoxyl. There was no death among them. Five cases were treated as out-patients. There were four cases under treatment at Sunyani. No cases were reported from either Obuasi or Kintampo.

Out of 19,138 people examined in the Central Province, 11 cases of trypanosomiasis were discovered. In the Ahafo district of the Western Province, out of 2,926 people examined no cases were found. In 1910 four cases were discovered there, three of which have since died, and the remaining one is suffering from dementia. Fourteen cases in the Sunyani district among 5,290 people examined.

Gaols.—The health of the prisoners was good. Three died in Coomassie prison during the year and two at Obuasi.

SANITATION AND CLIMATE.

The sanitation, both in the out-stations and in Coomassie, was well maintained during the year.

Kintampo and Sunyani employ gangs of sanitary labour as well as gangs on sleeping sickness duty.

The sanitation of Obuasi is in the hands of a Sanitary Committee that controls all the labour.

A European sanitary inspector was appointed to Coomassie in April. He has one native inspector and a permanent gang of 90 scavengers under him. The cleanliness of the town is surprising in consequence.

Mosquitoes are seldom seen in the European allotments and are steadily decreasing in the native town.

The Sanitary Department instituted 544 prosecutions during the year, resulting in 544 convictions.

The year 1912 was exceptionally dry. The rainfall in Coomassie was 50·54 inches, as compared with 70·25 in 1911, and 70·89 in 1910. At Obuasi the rainfall was 53·37 inches against 64·38 for 1911, at Sunyani, 37·26 inches, and at Kintampo, 41·45 inches.

Temperature.—Average mean temperature in Coomassie was 78·26 degrees.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

It is to be regretted that it was found necessary, for departmental reasons, to close down the post and telegraph office at Sunyani in the month of May. Arrangements were subsequently made to carry on the telegraph service, for official messages only, by the signallers of the Gold Coast Regiment. Stamps and postal orders were sold to the public one day a week by the Commissioner's clerk.

The post and telegraph office at Atabubu was closed down on the 15th of December for similar reasons.

There is a daily service of mails between Coomassie and the coast.

North of Coomassie mails are despatched once a week to all headquarter stations, and twice a week to the Northern Territories.

The following mail matter was handled:—

——	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and Post Cards	121,716	188,238	309,954
Book Packets and Newspapers	24,033	119,384	143,417
Registered Articles	24,975	16,078	41,053
Parcels...	4,216	14,208	18,424
Total	174,940	337,908	512,848

Post office receipts on account of sales of stamps throughout Ashanti amounted to £7,014 16*s*. 5*d*., as against £6,656 in 1911.

Telegraphic messages to the number of 95,243 were received and forwarded over the wires during the year.

RELIGION.

Proselytizing Christianity is represented in Ashanti by the Wesleyan, Basel and Roman Catholic Missions.

The Wesleyan Mission numbers a congregation of 3,748 souls, an increase of 155 on 1911. The staff consists of one European minister, who resides in Coomassie, two native ministers, and 29 catechists and teachers. There are 18 school-chapels.

The Basel Mission has a staff of two European and three native ministers, besides 27 catechists and teachers. They control a congregation of 1,819, ten less than in 1911, and 30 churches.

The Roman Catholics number 526, an increase of 31 on 1911. Two priests, who reside in Coomassie, are in charge of this mission.

The total Christian population can be put down at 6,093, which means about 2 per cent. of the total population.

The relations between heathens and Christians were somewhat strained at the commencement of the year owing to Christian converts refusing personal service to their chiefs. But on the occasion of the Governor's visit to Coomassie—early in March—rules were drawn up by His Excellency's instructions as a guide to both parties concerning their respective obligations. These rules have so far had the effect of lessening the breach between the factions and the relations for the remainder of the year showed a decided improvement.

The religion of the country remains a mixture of "Fetishism" and ancestor worship.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Relations between Commissisoners and the natives continued to be excellent. No friction between the paramount and subject powers is to be recorded for 1912. One intertribal disturbance occurred at Tekiman over a boundary dispute, which was satisfactorily settled by the respective Commissioners of the Western and Northern Provinces.

The only tribal quarrel occurred at Ejisu, where the people and elders, dissatisfied with the treatment meted out to them by their head chief, aggravated by the fact of his blindness, arrested and maltreated him one night before he could be rescued by the police. The ringleaders were punished for their conduct, but the political side of the question had not been finally dealt with at the close of the year.

A fetish, named Anwhiri Bofu, obtained some notoriety in the Southern Province, and caused pilgrimages for the exorcism of witches, but this was suppressed without any difficulty.

The willingness and pleasure displayed by the Ashantis to obey all lawful demands and their increasing and sincere loyalty towards the Crown and Government are truly gratifying to all whose work brings them into administrative contact with this people.

ROADS.

Coomassie-Ejura Road.—Only six miles of road remained to be completed to formation level on the Coomassie-Ejura Road in 1912. One bridge and one culvert were in progress and five bridges and 33 culverts remained to be built. All these were completed by June 21st, 1913.

The Superintending Engineer reports:—

"In August, 1912, the Secretary of State decided to carry out the scheme put forward by Major Leslie in March, 1912, at the direction of the late Governor, for giving the road a coating of laterite as an alternative to the more costly work of proper metalling. This scheme was based on the assumption that a certain proportion of the executive staff would be available during some months of the year for any new road construction which might be undertaken in the near future. The execution of this work was entrusted to me, and on being informed by the Secretary of State that no new road construction was contemplated, I was obliged to reduce the above staff to the absolute minimum required for giving the Coomassie-Ejura Road its coating of laterite. The present approved staff of the Department is therefore as follows:—

"One Superintending Engineer.
"One Accountant and Storekeeper.
"Two Overseers.
"One fourth-grade Clerk.

"This provides for the presence on duty in the Colony of one officer continuously. Since my return to the Colony on the 11th

November, 1912, the work of quarrying, breaking and stacking the necessary laterite has been put in hand and surface repairs have been done where necessary. The road is now in a very fair condition throughout—the departmental motor car being able to do the run to Ejura (61 miles) in little over three hours.

"The development of the area of country tapped by the Coomassie-Ejura Road has been little short of phenomenal. There are now large and flourishing cocoa plantations on both sides of the road at short intervals for the first 35 miles, *i.e.*, as far as Mampon, whereas only small isolated plantations were in existence four years ago, when the survey for this part of the road was in progress.

"Some 400 tons of cocoa per month have been rolled down the road during the past season, and the only factor that has prevented this figure being largely augmented is the difficulty of getting labour for the uncongenial task of barrel rolling."

District Roads.—During the year the existing roads—some 230 miles in length—were well maintained and improved.

The eastern or Bompata Road was bridged from Coomassie to Ejisu, a distance of 13 miles, with framed timber bridges, calculated to carry a concentrated load of 13 cwt., at a total cost of £1,205. This works out to 25*s.* per foot run for fine strong timber bridges, over which casks can easily be rolled.

Mr. Assistant District Commissioner Norris, who was in charge of these bridges, reports:—

"It was pleasing to see how eager the Chiefs were to forward the work. The small cost is greatly due to the free labour given in connection with this. It was of interest to watch a gang of Ashantis working side by side with a gang of north countrymen. When it came to weight lifting, the Ashanti was nowhere; but this was more than counteracted by the superior brain power of the Ashanti. Once shown a thing, he knew what to do, and, what is more, how to do it. The north countryman, on the other hand, had to be repeatedly shown the same thing."

In addition to maintenance and improvement of existing roads, some 50 miles of new roads were constructed: the principal being:—

	Miles.
Ejura-Atabubu	12
Efiduasi-Aguna	10
Bansu-Obogu	5
Mampon-Nsuta	4

besides many small branch roads, bringing the total mileage of district roads to about 280.

FORESTRY.

The Conservator of Forests reports that:—"Owing to the Forest Ordinance being in abeyance, the consideration of the draft Ashanti Forest Reserve Rules has been deferred, and consequently no sylvicultural operations were undertaken in 1912."

Of the three existing reserves, *i.e.*, the Kumawu-Agogo, the Obogu and the Pra-Anum, the last mentioned was mapped by the Survey Department during the year. The area was found to be 50·95 square miles. The boundaries of the Obogu Reserve were demarcated by an Administrative Officer.

The Western Province of Ashanti was inspected by members of the Department, and the Conservator of Forests, whose headquarters were transferred from Accra to Coomassie, made three tours in Ashanti.

RAILWAYS.

Goods traffic increased from 13,998 tons in 1911 to 16,469 in 1912. Besides the above amount, 35,885 tons of firewood were hauled during the year.

Comparative statements of passenger and goods traffic have been supplied by the general manager.

Comparative Statement of Passenger Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1912.

Stations.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jim Abrufu	8,604	8,677	61	—
Obuasi	58,593	64,230	5,637	—
Akrokerri	14,377	19,088	4,711	—
Bekwai	22,351	26,904	4,553	—
Eduadin	3,667	4,912	1,245	—
Coomassie	42,104	48,163	6,059	—
Total	149,696	171,974	22,266	—

Comparative Statement of Goods Traffic in and out of Ashanti during 1912.

Stations.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Jim Abrufu	24,546	21,905	—	2,641
Obuasi	33,100	44,568	11,468	—
Akrokerri	861	15,006	14,145	—
Bekwai	1,235	1,633	398	—
Eduadin	55	169	114	—
Coomassie	13,995	15,386	1,391	—
Total	73,792	98,667	27,516	2,641

Total tonnage includes 71,770 tons hauled from firewood traffic, leaving a goods tonnage of 26,897, against 22,851 in 1911.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

The staff of the department consisted of one assistant transport officer, two clerks, two overseers, 15 headmen, and 375 carriers, a decrease of 10 on 1911.

Of the 23 gangs, 14 were allotted to the Northern Territories and nine to Ashanti. Three of the Northern Territory gangs were engaged in the porterage of mails.

Number of loads distributed in Coomassie ...	4,729
Number of loads sent to Ashanti out-stations ...	1,630
Number employed carrying officers and troops in Ashanti	1,179
Number of loads sent to Northern Territories ...	2,705
Number employed carrying officers and troops to Northern Territories	1,410
Number employed in mail service	1,156
Grand total	12,809

as against 10,583 in 1911.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

The only immigration into Ashanti on a large scale consists of north country people of every tribe and country who find their way down to Coomassie on trading ventures.

There are over 20,000 of these northerners more or less permanently settled in Ashanti. Over half this number reside in Coomassie. The cattle trade is in their hands. They are likewise the largest kola brokers in the country. The migration of these traders varies with the seasons of the year—by far the largest influx taking place between November and April.

There is practically no emigration from Ashanti.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The following is a list of works undertaken by the department during the year:—

Quarters for European nursing sister—completed:
Enlargement of officers' quarters—three bungalows completed:
Transport stores and offices—completed:
Extension of market—commenced:
Conservator of Forests' bungalow and offices—commenced:
Conversion of Commanding Officer's quarters in double bungalow—commenced:
Rest house—commenced:
Veterinary offices and dispensary—commenced:
Roads Department bungalow—commenced:

besides several sanitary improvements, such as drainage of roads, erection of incinerators and latrines, and the construction of new culverts and wells.

Obuasi :—

Repairs were carried out to Provincial Commissioner's and Medical Officer's quarters.

The following works were commenced :—

Additional quarters—two sets.
Police Station and Barracks.

Kintampo :—

Provincial Commissioner's quarters—unfinished.
District Commissioner's quarters—unfinished.
Native Hospital—completed.
New Post Office—completed.

Sunyani :—

New quarters—two sets were commenced.

COOMASSIE TOWN.

The town, although extending, was hampered in expansion by the fact that it remained unsurveyed. Twenty-nine new leases were issued, 36 renewed, and 34 transferred. Fifty-three building permits were granted and 22 old buildings demolished.

Rents from Government lands amounted to £2,641, an increase of £166 on 1911. Of this, £1,941 was collected from the town proper, and the balance from the "Zongo," or north country settlement.

Market rents produced £207, and slaughter house fees £721, an increase of £27.

4,154 head of cattle, 774 sheep, 2,878 goats, and 294 pigs were slaughtered during the year, an increase of 194 cattle and 294 goats.

The town sanitation was well attended to by the Sanitary Committee. Several new drains, incinerators and latrines were constructed. The market was found insufficiently large for the expanding trade. A new and substantial extension adjoining the present market was commenced.

A note of alarm was raised by the chiefs, who complained that the people living in the environments of Coomassie were neglecting their farms in favour of cocoa cultivation. A rise in the price of local food stuff is therefore anticipated, but did not actually take place in 1912. Prices vary with the time of the year and are usually moderate.

Several new buildings were erected by the Public Works Department and private people, and the European portion of the town can now boast of an imposing collection of houses.

WAGES.

Vary from 1*s*. a day for unskilled labour to 3*s*. and 5*s*. for skilled carpenters, masons, and mechanics.

The cost of living compares favourably with coast prices, with the exception of house rent and food stuffs imported by the railway, which are both much higher than on the coast.

PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE TRADE.

Trade generally showed an all round increase of about 25 per cent., although the export of rubber declined by 21 per cent.

Future prospects are bright and promising owing to the extraordinary expansion of cocoa cultivation throughout the Central, Western and Southern Provinces of Ashanti.

European firms are penetrating more into the interior and establishing new branches in several northern villages.

The standard of living among the natives is rapidly improving, and new wants are being increasingly acquired by the Ashantis.

SUITABILITY FOR EUROPEANS.

The climate of Ashanti is not suitable for permanent European settlement, and no European should arrive in the country without definite employment.

The European community consists exclusively of Government officials, merchants, miners, and missionaries.

The average continuous stay in the country is of twelve months' duration, although numbers of the mercantile and missionary communities exceed that period.

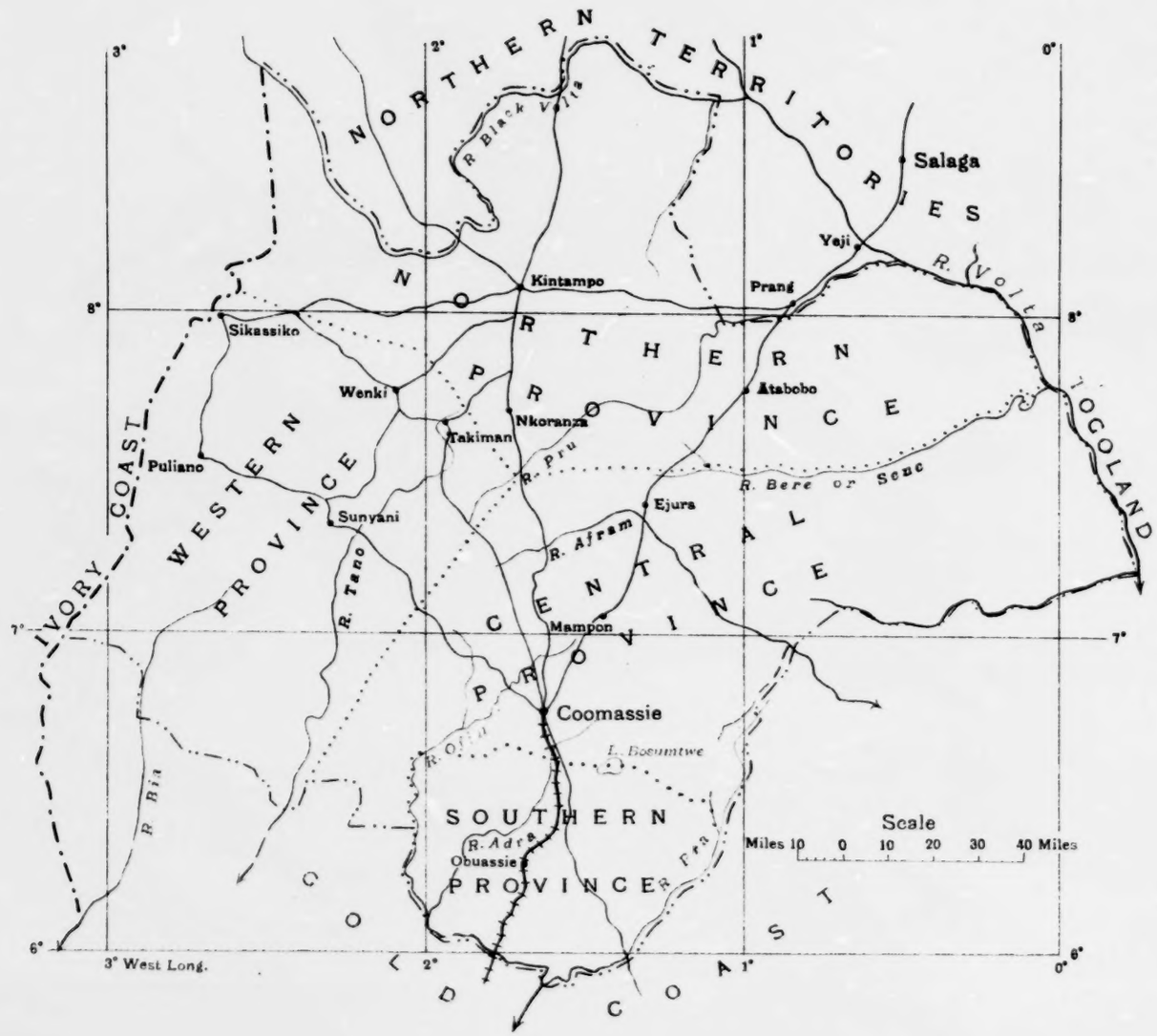
OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENTS.

General trading, gold mining, and rubber and cocoa planting are practically the only undertakings embarked upon by Europeans. The country is not suitable for the small investor, considerable capital being required to embark on mining, commercial, or agricultural ventures.

F. C. FULLER,
Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

Coomassie,
May 27th, 1913.

MAP OF ASHANTI



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COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

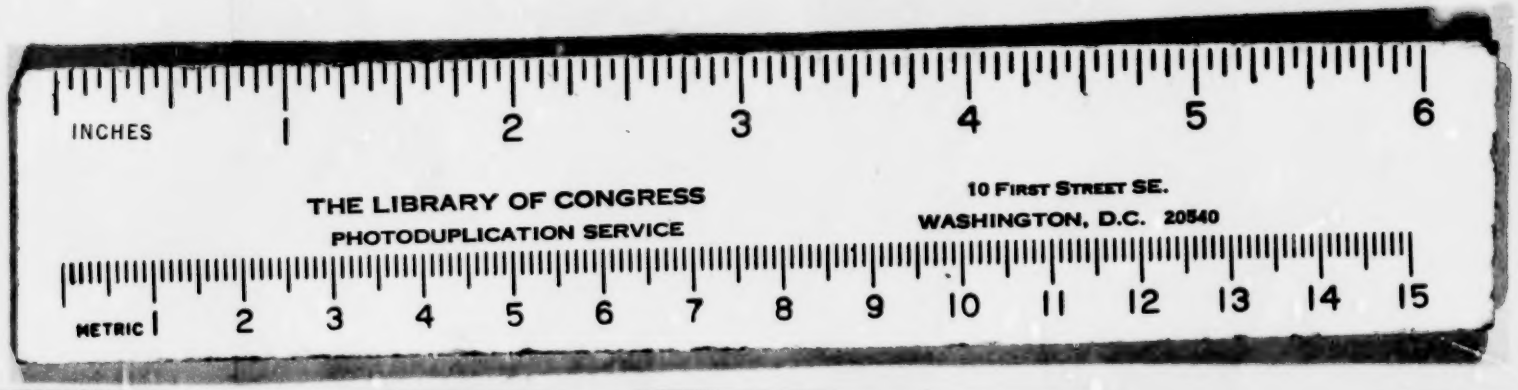
The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"
750	Straits Settlements	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	"
757	Weihaiwei	"
758	Ceylon	1911–1912
659	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	"
767	Gambia	"
768	Fiji	"
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 812.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 771.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1914.

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No. 812.

ASHANTI

(For Report for 1912, see No. 771.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Accra.
3rd September, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit, for your information, the Annual Report on Ashanti for the year 1913, which has been prepared by the Acting Chief Commissioner, Mr. A. J. Philbrick.

I have, &c.,

W. C. F. ROBERTSON,
Governor's Deputy.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

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FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected in Ashanti during 1913 was £49,882, as against £50,265 in 1912, £50,319 in 1911, and £37,621 in 1910.

Out of the £49,882, £25,555 was actually collected in Ashanti, the balance being the royalty paid by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation in England.

In the revenue collected in Ashanti there was a decrease of £383 compared with the previous year.

Increases of note occur in respect of Sale of Stamps (£482), Market and Slaughter House fees (£452), Spirit Licences (£170) and rents from Government Land (£161), but the total increases were insufficient to cover the falling off under Mining Royalties (£1,054) and Firearm Licences (£256).

The drop in the firearm licence fees is due to the non-collection of the fees owing to a change in the system, and not to there being any reduction in the number of guns.

Revenue and expenditure for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909	29,264 ..	102,211
1910	37,621 ..	117,398
1911	50,319 ..	146,317
1912	50,265 ..	148,685
1913	49,882 ..	162,159

In the expenditure for 1913 are included :

Public Works Extraordinary ..	£30,284
Gold Coast Regiment	46,646

while the revenue does not include

(i) Duties on imports by railway.

(ii) Proportion of profit made by railway on its Ashanti traffic.

(iii) Registration, Survey, and Stamp fees.

A considerable part of the expenses of the Gold Coast Regiment now charged against Ashanti might fairly be charged to the Colony proper.

The expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary was exceptionally heavy, and was rendered necessary by the rapid development of the country.

There is no doubt that Ashanti is prosperous, and in a sound financial condition.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £889,271, as compared with £745,000 in 1912.

This sum is made up as follows :—

Merchandise imported over the railway by merchants and mines	£604,268
Cattle	200,000
Sheep and goats	30,000
Dawa-dawa	26,514
Shea butter	13,489
Miscellaneous, including dried fish, hides, millet, etc.	15,000
	£889,271

Goods imported over the railway amounted to a gross tonnage of 22,406 tons as against 16,469 tons in 1912.

Wines and Spirits, which were all imported over the railway, amounted to 1,780 tons, an increase of 260 tons above the previous year.

The increase was general in all classes of liquor, and indicates the greater spending power amongst the people.

Dried and Smoked Fish.—989 tons of cured fish were brought up by rail from Seccondee and Chama (Ashieme Station). This is a few tons only under the large total of last year (999 tons).

As then mentioned, there is a ready sale for any quantity of this fish, the supply being only restricted by the amount of the catch on the coast.

£2,500 was paid on this in freight to the railway and its value on the coast was not less than £8,000.

The development of this trade by the railway has not only proved of great benefit by supplying the natives with a much prized article of diet, but has added an appreciable amount to the railway revenue.

Cattle.—A further large increase can be recorded in the number of cattle entering the country. 83,309 head came through the Northern Territories from the French Moshi country. This represents the larger part of the trade, but very considerable numbers come in from the Ivory Coast through the Northern and Western Provinces. A conservative estimate of the total entering the country would be 100,000. They are worth on an average £4 per head.

14,122 head entered Coomassie. 4,154 were slaughtered for the needs of the town, 653 were sent by rail to Obuasi and 3,634 were exported by rail to the Colony.

Of the remainder, which filtered through the country by all the main roads, many were sold or slaughtered in Ashanti, but the majority were driven through to the Colony.

Accepting 50,000 as the number sold or slaughtered in Ashanti, their value would be £200,000.

The Ejura-Coomassie road was used to some extent by the drovers, but they leave it before reaching Coomassie, when their cattle are going down to the Colony by road, passing generally by Effiduasie and Juaso. The routes taken, however, naturally depend on grass and water facilities, which vary at different seasons of the year.

Sheep and Goats.—115,500 head came in from the Northern Territories and a large number from the west.

4,319 were slaughtered in Coomassie, 1,641 were sent to the Colony by rail, the others were slaughtered in Ashanti, or travelled through by road.

Dawa-dawa and Shea butter.—10,607 loads of the former and 13,489 loads of the latter were imported from the Northern Territories.

Dawa-dawa is worth about 50*s.* a load, and shea butter £1.

Miscellaneous.—Hides, millet, native cloths, and various products of the Northern Territories entered to the estimated value of £15,000.

Exports.

Exports consisted principally of gold, cocoa, kola, rubber, cattle, and hides.

Their value was as follows:—

Gold	£475,089
Cocoa	400,000
Kola	126,000
Rubber	75,209
Cattle and Sheep	45,600
Hides	33,480
	£1,155,378

Gold.

111,838 ounces of fine gold was exported during the year, value £475,089. The details of production, etc., will be found under the heading of Mines.

Cocoa.

8,693 tons of cocoa were sent down over the railway, an increase of 2,356 tons. Its value on an average price taken from figures supplied by the merchants was £400,000. In addition £22,060 was paid to the railway in freight.

Kola.

66,160 loads were carried from Coomassie to Seccondee for Lagos, the freight paid to the railway being £4,392. 17,508 loads were exported north through Ejura, where a count was kept; the western and north-western outlets would average at least as many, and a certain quantity passes through Kintampo. A conservative estimate for the total number of loads leaving the country is 126,000.

Rubber.

Only 594 tons of rubber of all sorts were exported, the value of which was £75,209. The reason for this will be found on a later page.

Cattle and Sheep.

3,634 head of cattle and 1,631 sheep and goats were carried down the railway. Quantities went down daily by road to Akim and the eastern part of the Colony. Under present conditions it is not possible to count these, but I estimate the value of the trade at £45,600.

The improvement in roads, provision of resting places with good water, and the general feeling of security growing up in the country will enable this trade to assume larger proportions year by year.

The demand for meat is large and will increase as money circulates more freely.

Hides.

This is an increasing trade; hides come to Coomassie from the Moshi country and even farther north. 48,567 were exported, as compared with 20,370 in 1912.

Improved means of communications from the north will help this business.

Bank of British West Africa—Coomassie.

The Manager reports as follows:—

"The business of the Bank has steadily increased during the year under review. This increase is due partly to the good produce season and partly to the increased confidence the native now has in the Bank; the accounts opened by natives during the year showing a satisfactory increase. As in previous years, the Bank imported large quantities of silver; during the year the newly-coined Colonial silver was put into circulation, and we are pleased to say on no occasion have the natives refused to take same, in fact, they seem to prefer it to the Imperial coinage. The demand for gold and French five-franc pieces by the cattle dealers has also increased. The kola dealers also find the Bank of increasing usefulness as they now receive their remittance, by draft on the Bank, from Nigeria, to which Colony most of the kolas from Coomassie are exported."

AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.

The cultivation of cocoa is still spreading west and north ; and there was, if anything, more land planted out than in previous years.

The export of 8,693 tons was 25 per cent. over that of 1912. This was due to more young trees coming into bearing, and not to a heavy crop, as I am informed the fruiting of the trees was by no means good.

Disease was prevalent, especially in the eastern and southern districts. Efforts were made to get the farmers to fight the various pests by improved methods of cultivation and by weeding out the diseased trees. Some good results were obtained, but it seems difficult to get the natives to realize the importance of the matter. If one farm gets diseased they move further on in the forest and make another, leaving the old one to take its chance, and to spread disease. Late in the year each head-chief was asked to send representatives to Coomassie to receive instructions in cocoa cultivation. This class is now being taught, and when finished each member will reside in his division, and instruct farmers with the authority of the chief behind him. I have hopes that this will do a great deal of good.

Cocoa will not do well north of Nkoranza and the Kumawu-Agogo country, and very definite advice has been given to the chiefs north of these limits that time spent by their people on planting cocoa will be wasted.

It is of extreme importance also that no planting which involves the clearing of large patches of forest trees should take place near the northern forest line. Such clearings become overgrown with grass, and never revert to forest again.

Rubber.

This trade has been dormant throughout the year, the large quantities of plantation rubber from other countries and the very low price obtainable having rendered lump rubber unprofitable to deal in.

It has been of some advantage to the country in that the trees have had a rest from tapping.

The Western Province, which has always largely depended on rubber, has felt the loss of this trade most. The Commissioner there is endeavouring to improve the quality of the output, so that it can be placed on the market again.

Kola.

The demand for this nut is increasing, and there is an opening for natives in the kola belt to plant. At present the wild trees only are depended on, yet the trade assumed very large proportions, and certainly amounted to 126,000 loads, an estimate which is moderate. This trade is entirely in the hands of the Mahommedans and causes the circulation of considerable sums of money, besides providing a good revenue to the railway.

Tobacco.

A very little of a coarse variety is grown for local consumption, but the proper curing of it is not understood.

Shea butter.

There are immense districts covered with shea butter trees awaiting development. At present a small trade is done by supplying the markets in the Colony.

Agricultural Station.

14,845 Para rubber plants, and 517,000 seeds were distributed during the year, also some 500 pods of Cundeamor and Criollo cocoa.

The cocoa trees planted in the garden gave a fairly good crop, but they suffered to some extent from the harmattan.

2,593 lbs. were sold, bringing in £44 16*s.* 6*d.*

55½ acres are under Para rubber, and the average growth in girth during the year was 2 in. per tree.

15 trees were tapped by the herring-bone, and 15 by the half-spiral system. The former gave 12·2 oz. and the latter 15·4 oz. per tree, and the total yield from the 30 trees was 25 lbs. 14¾ oz.

Numerous plots in all classes of tropical fruits were experimented with.

Rain fell on 127 days, giving 62·06 inches for the year.

40 rooms each 12 feet square were built for labourers' barracks.

INDUSTRIES.

Mines.

1. During 1913 the amount of gold obtained by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was 111,838·42 ounces of fine gold, valued at £475,089 5*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with 121,914·55 ounces, valued at £517,893 3*s.* 4*d.*, obtained in 1912.

Mining.

Name of Company.	Ounces of fine Gold recovered.	Value. £	*s.*	*d.*
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation	105,838·02 ..	449,599	10	11
Dredging.				
Ashanti Rivers and Concessions	326·90 ..	1,388	14	4
Offin River Gold Estates ..	5,673·50 ..	24,101	0	0
	111,838·42 ..	£475,089	5	3

2. The amount of labour employed by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was as follows :—

	Surface.	Mine.	Total.
Europeans	74	47	121
Natives	2,660	1,262	3,922
Total	2,734	1,309	4,043

3. During the year prospecting work has been carried out on the conglomerate outcrops, situated in Eastern Ashanti, on the concession owned by the W. A. P. Syndicate.

4. The Ashanti Goldfields Territories, the Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Limited (Dredging), the Ashanti Rivers and Concessions (Miradani) and the W. A. P. Syndicate discontinued operations during the year.

Manufactures.

Weaving, basket-making, pottery, goldsmiths' work are all practised in the villages, but on a very small scale.

Fisheries.

Ashanti having no coast line, the only local fish come from the lake and from the bigger rivers.

LEGISLATION.

Eight Ordinances were enacted during the year 1913.

EDUCATION.

The Government primary school at Coomassie had a prosperous year.

The extension of the boys' building and the erection of a new girls' school were not finished, but the congestion of pupils was remedied by reducing the number on the roll from 346 to 300. Applications for admission were very numerous and the completion of the above-mentioned buildings in 1914 will enable the number to be increased again.

The average attendance was excellent and has improved year by year, as the following table shows :—

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Percentage attendance.
1910	343 ..	59·5
1911	344 ..	65·5
1912	346 ..	69·4
1913	306 ..	77·8

Ashantis form 49 per cent., Fantis 34 per cent., Accras 8 per cent. and other tribes 9 per cent. of the scholars.

Mr. Evans was in charge of the school from February to October, and for the remaining part of the year Mr. Muller, the head-teacher. They were helped by six assistants.

The work done was exceedingly satisfactory.

Government School at Sunyani.

The number on the roll rose from 50 to 78 with an average attendance of over 80 per cent.

Mr. Fell, the Commissioner of the Western Province, gives a most satisfactory report on this school in all respects.

Mission Schools are kept up as follows :—

Basel Mission.

24 elementary schools with 730 pupils, as against 658 in 1912.
Of these schools five receive Government grants.

Wesleyan Mission.

This Mission has 8 day schools with 526 scholars, besides numerous Sunday schools.

Catholic Mission.

Two day schools with 186 pupils on the rolls.
The S.P.G. Mission opened a school at Coomassie during the year.

General Remarks.

The Ashantis seem anxious for their children to become scholars, although they realize that education must break down old customs and superstitions. The children themselves in their younger years are remarkably bright and intelligent.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

There are hospitals for Europeans at Coomassie and Obuasi, and hospitals for natives at Coomassie, Obuasi, Sunyani and Kintampo.

Contagious disease hospitals have been built at Coomassie and Obuasi.

There is no asylum. Violent and homicidal cases are sent to Accra for detention in the asylum there.

Savings Banks.

Savings Banks are in operation in conjunction with the Post Offices at Coomassie and Obuasi.

The details of their working are as follows :—

Coomassie. Number of depositors, 285.
Value of deposits, £2,740 15*s.*;

an increase of £1,300 over 1912.

Obuasi. Number of depositors, 67.
Value of deposits, £1,903 11*s.*;

an increase of £950 over 1912.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force in Ashanti on December 31st, 1913, numbered 110, as against 105 in 1912. In addition there are eight railway police stationed at Coomassie and Obuasi (these men are solely on railway duty) and also two mines police employed at Obuasi by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation. Discipline, efficiency, and general conduct were satisfactory.

There were 426 prosecutions in Coomassie and 282 prosecutions in Obuasi, as against 690 and 268, respectively, in the year before.

During the year a dangerous gang of store breakers and receivers was broken up at Coomassie.

£28,500 was conveyed by escort police for private firms during the year—the fees earned amounting to £56 2*s.* 3*d.*

The Motor Ordinance came into force on January 1st, and licence fees amounted to £11 14*s.* and drivers' certificates fees to £19.

Prisons.

Coomassie.—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 297, including females.

The number of debtor prisoners admitted was 61, viz., 45 males and 16 females. The number of untried prisoners was 85 males and 10 females.

The crimes committed by the prisoners were as follows :—

Murder	1
Manslaughter	11
Rape	9
Wounding	9
Robbery with violence..	3
Burglary	5
Assault	15
Larceny and other offences	244

The offences against prison discipline were generally of a minor character, with the exception of two cases in which flogging had to be resorted to.

The health of the prisoners was good. The admissions into the prison infirmary were 31, and were all for slight cases of illness except 3 cases resulting in death.

There were no executions.

The expenditure for the year was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Permanent warders	627	5	3
Temporary warders	141	9	0
Prison rations	316	10	10
Other charges	56	5	2
Total	£1,141	10	3

The nominal earning was £938 11*s.* 1*d.*, while the actual sum earned was £191 14*s.* 4*d.*, which sum was paid into the Government chest.

The prisoners were employed generally on sanitary work, carpentry, laundry, basket-making, etc.

There were 10 escapes during the year, and of these 3 were recaptured.

The prison was kept clean and in good order, and discipline fairly well maintained.

Obuasi. The total number of prisoners committed was 267, viz. :—

178 convicts,
72 untried,
17 debtors.

The health of the prisoners was fair ; there were 30 admissions to the Colonial Hospital and two deaths during the year.

The expenditure was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Pay of permanent warders	407	2	10
Pay of temporary warders	79	1	0
Prisoners' rations	221	4	11
Total	£707	8	9

The nominal earning shows £464 10*s.* 11*d.*, and the actual sum earned and paid into the Government chest was £48 16*s.* 6*d.*

There were 13 escapes during the year and five recaptures.

The prison was in good sanitary condition and well kept during the year.

Sunyani. There was a daily average of 18 prisoners. Their health was very good.

Kintampo. The daily average was 8. Health was very good.

Criminal Cases.

The following table gives a list of the criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and the manner in which they were dealt with :—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner's	70	11	59	—	—
Police Magistrate's ..	1,176	103	1,060	—	13
District Commissioner, Central Province ..	56	11	45	—	—
District Commissioner, Ejura	177	29	146	—	2
District Commissioner, Juaso	44	15	27	—	2
Commissioner, Southern Province	708	89	615	—	4
Commissioner, Western Province	193	46	146	—	1
District Commissioner, Wenchi	37	10	25	—	2
Commissioner, Northern Province	159	39	120	—	—
Acting District Commissioner, British Kratchi	18	—	18	—	—
Totals ..	2,638	353	2,261	—	24

A decrease of 160 as compared with last year.

Serious crime was as follows :—

Murder	1
Rape	8
Manslaughter	19

1,669 civil cases were disposed of during the year, showing a decrease of 52 as compared with 1912.

The fees and fines of court during the year amounted to £2,379 1*s.* 8*d.*, a decrease of £106 10*s.* 5*d.* over last year.

The Concessions Court held four sittings during the year and disposed of 6 cases by the Crown against mining companies which have incurred penalties under Section 50 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance.

The penalties for which judgments were recorded amounted in the aggregate to £4,725, of which £2,000, due by the Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Limited, has since been remitted by the Government.

The balance of the penalties still remains unrecovered and there appears to be no hope of recovering, since the companies concerned are in liquidation, and the concessions in respect of which the penalties are due have since been abandoned.

Two concession notices were filed under Section 9 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance and extensions were granted for the filing of notice, etc., in respect of two lapsed concessions.

Five concessions were abandoned, and no certificate of validity was granted during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Census taken in 1911 gave a population of 287,814 for Ashanti, made up as follows :—

Males ..	141,231	Adults ..	170,761
Females ..	146,583	Children ..	117,053
	287,814		287,814

The population, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, is steadily increasing.

Coomassie, which numbered 19,000 at the taking of the census, is now estimated by the Police Magistrate, the officer in charge of the town, to number about 21,000.

He divides them as follows :—

Mohammedans and Pagans in the Zongo, including Moshis, Dagombas, Wangaras, Hausas, Kotokolis, Yorubas and other races	11,000
Gold Coast Regiment and followers	1,800
Ashantis..	3,000
Fantis and other Colony tribes	3,000
Miscellaneous, including Europeans and 56 Syrians	2,200
	21,000

European residents during the year were :—

	Coomassie.	Other Parts.	Total.
Official ..	.. 110	27	137
Unofficial	.. 101	195	296
	211	222	433

There were 110 Europeans in Coomassie at the close of the year, and 168 in the Southern Province.

Public Health.

Europeans.

Health amongst European officials was satisfactory; there was one death from yellow fever at Kintampo and four invalidings from Coomassie.

Death rate .. 7·40 per thousand.

Invaliding rate 29·62 per thousand.

Four non-official Europeans died—two from accidents—and nine were invalided.

Death rate .. 13·51 per thousand.

Invaliding rate 30·50 per thousand.

There were 50 admissions into the European Hospital.

Among the 56 Syrians in Coomassie, two died from causes unknown.

Natives.

Officials numbered 150. There was one death and three were invalided.

Unofficial.

There were 1,371 admissions to hospital and 37 deaths in hospital.

The dispensary dealt with 11,013 new cases, and 32,398 old ones, of which 36 per cent. were soldiers.

Small-Pox.

Only five cases were recorded during the year. 3,384 people were vaccinated, with successful results in 2,814 cases.

Trypanosomiasis.

Six cases were treated in Coomassie, four being soldiers, one a soldier's wife, and one a civilian. Five died and one recovered.

Leprosy.

Leprosy was reported from the neighbourhood of Lake Busumtwi.

2,044 people were examined, 88 certain and 18 possible cases were found.

Sixteen cases from 8,653 persons examined were found in the Northern Province.

SANITATION AND CLIMATE.

Coomassie was under a Medical Officer of Health assisted by a European Inspector, and was kept remarkably clean and neat.

The sanitation of Obuasi was undertaken by a Sanitary Committee under the Presidency of the Provincial Commissioner. The Committee employed a European Supervisor and a large number of natives. The condition of the town was satisfactory. The street to street water supply was ample and kept in good order.

The town of Kintampo was burnt down in January and was rebuilt with wide straight streets ; the same course was adopted at Ejura.

There was during the year a movement amongst the native chiefs to get their villages improved. This improvement consisted in laying out a broad centre street, with wide streets at right angles. Though depriving the villages altogether of their picturesqueness, it has doubtless added much to their ventilation and sanitary condition.

5·39 inches more rain fell in 1913 than in 1912, which was a dry year.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Services.—Daily between Coomassie and coast. Weekly to all out-stations. Twice weekly to Northern Territories.

The service generally was fairly well maintained.

The Post Office at Sunyani, which had been shut down, was re-opened for business by the Post Office Department in September.

Coomassie Post Office handled the following :—

	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and Post Cards	110,436	123,112	233,548
Books and Papers ..	20,232	39,326	59,558
Registered Articles ..	12,958	11,291	24,249
Parcels	4,532	9,182	13,714
	148,158	182,911	331,069

Obuasi Post Office.

	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and Post Cards	16,634	64,293	80,927
Books and Papers ..	2,643	94,375	97,018
Registered Articles ..	11,860	4,115	15,975
Parcels	974	8,743	9,717
	32,111	171,526	203,637

The smaller offices at Chichiwere, Nkoranza, Kintampo, and Sunyani handled 17,515 articles in all.

The total revenue was £37,994 17*s.* 9*d.* 99,789 telegraphic messages were handled at Coomassie and Obuasi.

The telegraph service was subject to frequent interruptions.

RELIGION.

The following Missions conduct operations in Ashanti :—Wesleyan, Basel Mission, Catholic, S.P.G., Zion.

The Wesleyan Mission has 718 full members, 2,680 adherents and 758 Sunday scholars, with a staff of one European and 14 natives. They own 18 school chapels in various towns and villages.

The Basel Mission has 1,807 full members and 751 children, a decrease of 12 as compared with 1912. Their staff consisted of three European ministers, with their wives, and thirty native ministers and catechists, and they own thirty chapels and schools in Ashanti.

The Catholic Mission has 680 members with 186 school children, at eight Missions.

The S.P.G. made a commencement late in the year, and have opened a small school and chapel in Coomassie, and a small chapel in Obuasi.

The Zion Mission is also beginning. It has a church in Coomassie, with 70 senior and 76 junior members, and a school with 80 scholars.

Though comparatively very few in number compared with the rest of the population, Christians are distributed throughout the country and have to live in close contact with the heathens, and it is remarkable that so few quarrels take place.

Practically the only cause of trouble is an occasional refusal by a convert to perform hereditary personal services to his chief, on the ground that they are "fetish." In these cases the decision as to whether any particular service is or is not connected with "fetish" is generally decided by a Commissioner.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Native Affairs.

The relations between the Government and the native chiefs and councillors continued as cordial as ever.

There were few intertribal disturbances, and what there were were of very slight importance, and were easily settled.

The people of Ejisu, whose blind chief, Yaw Awua, was retired in 1912, continued restless and gave some trouble. This must be expected during the lifetime of the ex-chief.

The feature of the year was the division of the Provinces into sub-districts, with Commissioners in charge of each.

The Central Province is now divided as follows :—

The Central District, which includes Coomassie (outside the town, which is administered by the Police Magistrate), Ejisu, Offinsu, Aguna, and Atchima.

The Ashanti Akim District, with head-quarters at Juaso, includes Bompata, Juaben, Kumawu, and Obogu.

The Ejura District includes Mampon, Nsuta, and Attabubu from the Northern Province.

The Western Province now contains two sub-districts—Wenchi, which includes Jaman, and Ahafo, with head-quarters at Goaso. These two districts were in formation at the close of 1913, though not actually opened.

The Police Magistrate's extra-urban duties were taken from him in September and were given to the District Commissioner, Central District. This change places the outlying villages round Coomassie in charge of an officer who has opportunities of travelling and also gives the Police Magistrate more time to attend to his proper work.

The Southern Province is still undivided and for most of the year was in the sole charge of a Provincial Commissioner, and consequently much needed travelling could not be done.

The Omanhin of Kokofu and Ahafo died during the year. Successors were elected and installed. The Omanhin of Wenchi abdicated and a successor was appointed.

An outstanding feature during the year was the interest taken by nearly all the tribes in the improvement of their villages and the opening up of the country with decent roads.

The establishment of the new headquarters mentioned above was welcomed by the natives, and gratuitous labour was not only freely offered, but was regularly supplied. The results have been most gratifying. These excellent stations are well on the way to completion at a cost which is trifling. This forms a very convincing proof of the sympathy existing between the Administration and the natives.

The year was marked by great progress in the Western Province, largely due to the assistance and sympathy given the people by their Commissioner.

Roads.

The Acting Superintending Engineer reports as follows:—

"The construction of the road was completed to Ejura, a distance of 61 miles approximately, in June, 1912.

"In August, 1912, the Secretary of State decided to give the road a coating of laterite, and this work was accordingly put in hand in November, 1912.

"After the work had proceeded for some 5 miles approximately from Coomassie, it was found that laterite became scarce, and subsequently non-existent between miles 6 and 17, and it was consequently found necessary to use broken granite in its stead, the cost of the work being thereby considerably increased.

"On the 3rd May His Excellency the Governor inspected the road, and in accordance with his recommendations the Secretary of State decided that the surface improvement should be carried out as far as Mampon only, a distance of 35½ miles approximately, the work to be completed by the end of 1914, and this Department to be subsequently disbanded.

"Up to the 31st December, 1913, stone was spread and rolled for a length of 16·51 miles, and stone quarried for a further length of 3·41 miles approximately.

"In January, 1912, a survey was started for a branch road from the neighbourhood of the village of Ntonso (mile 14) to Affiduasi, the centre of a flourishing cocoa district, and the construction of this road has been approved for 1914.

"The erection on the Mampon plateau of a small bungalow for the use of the executive staff and for subsequent use as a sanatorium was approved during the year. The work was started on the 1st of September, and the bungalow was approaching completion on the 31st of December.

"The establishment at the opening of 1913 was:—

1 Superintendent Engineer,
1 Accountant and Storekeeper,
2 Overseers.

Reliefs were arranged to insure the continuous presence in the Colony of one officer and one overseer, and from the 1st April, 1914, the whole staff will be present in the Colony until the completion of the work.

"The labour establishment on the 1st of January was 572, and 706 on the 31st of December. The average for the year was 666, at an average monthly cost of £828.

"All bridges and culverts are still in good condition and no replacements are anticipated in the near future.

"Very heavy rains have been experienced during the year, necessitating a large amount of repairs. North of Mampon, where the soil is for the greater part of the way to Ejura of a clayey and indifferent nature, it has been found impossible to keep the surface in good condition, but an endeavour is being made at the present time to render it fairly passable. At the same time it is my opinion that no wheeled traffic will ever be able to ply on this section of the road, other than handcarts and the lightest types of motor-car, and the latter can only proceed at a very slow rate at imminent danger to their springs, and, as far as the road up the Ejura Hill is concerned, their tyres also."

Up to the end of the year the total cost per mile for labour only for surface improvement was £456, against the estimate of £500.

District Roads.

Considerable progress was made in the improvement and construction of district roads. 182 miles of road were sumped and ditched. Inspectors were constantly travelling, and the natives in most cases carried out their instructions.

The natives nearly everywhere realize that the development of the country depends on the roads, and if it were only possible to supply skilled supervision there would soon be graded roads in all directions; the expense to the Government merely being the cost of alignment and bridging.

The bridges put up on the Ejisu road have stood extremely well, and are used to carry a traffic much heavier than that for which they were intended.

A bridge over the Ofin on the Coomassie-Sunyani road was nearly finished at the end of the year. This is being constructed by the Pioneers of the Gold Coast Regiment at the cost of the Road Vote.

Railway.

Inwards goods traffic increased from 16,469 tons in 1912 to 22,406 tons in 1913, besides 37,518 tons of firewood which were hauled for the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation for short distances.

Outwards goods traffic amounted to 14,254 tons.

Passenger Traffic. 208,498 passengers were booked in and out of Ashanti—an increase of 36,524 over 1912. The value of the traffic was £31,165.

During the cocoa season it was found necessary to put on an extra mixed train, which ran up and down between Dunkwa and Coomassie daily.

Forestry.

No progress was made with regard to the preservation of the forests, owing to the abeyance of the Forestry Ordinance.

The three Forest Reserves in Ashanti, namely the Prah Anum, the Obogu, and the Kumawu Agogo, were all inspected by the Forestry Department.

Experimental nurseries of teak and Dalbergia Sissoo were made with a view to making plantations later on. The former germinated poorly, but the latter has done well.

Transport Department.

The following table gives the particulars of the work done by the Department during the year :—

Number of loads sent through to the Northern Territories	3,021
Number of loads distributed to Ashanti out-stations	6,221
Number of loads moved at Coomassie	3,831
Number of carriers occupied in conveying troops to the Colony, Northern Territories and Ashanti out-stations	2,971
Number of loads of mails	1,494
Number of loads sent by train	827
	18,365

as against 12,809 in 1912.

759 loads were also sent on by Northern Territories carriers sent down for them.

A motor service between Coomassie and Ejura was commenced in November, and preparations were completed for transferring the head-quarters of the Department from Seccondee to Coomassie.

Public Works.

An extensive programme was carried out during the year, about £34,000 being spent.

The following buildings were completed, having been commenced in 1912.

Meat Market	Coomassie.
Veterinary Offices and Dispensary ..	Coomassie.
Conservator's Offices	Coomassie.
Rest House	Coomassie.
Conservator's Bungalow	Coomassie.
Veterinary Offices	Coomassie.
Roads Department Bungalow	Coomassie.
Police Station and Barracks	Obuasi.
District Commissioner's Bungalow ..	Obuasi.
Inspector of Mines' Bungalow (not handed over)	Obuasi.
Provincial Commissioner's Bungalow ..	Kintampo
District Commissioner's Bungalow ..	Kintampo.
Post Office	Kintampo.

The following buildings were commenced during 1913 in Coomassie:—

Girls' School added to Government School	Completed.
Contagious Diseases Hospital ..	
Native Hospital	Not completed.
Type "C" Bungalow on Reservation	Not completed.
Slaughter House	Completed.
Police Station—General Repairs ..	Completed.
Gaolers' Quarters	Completed.
Prison—General Repairs	Completed.
Type "A" Bungalow on Reservation..	Not finished.
Company Lines	Not finished.
Extension—Post Office	Completed.
Type "C" Quarters	Not finished.

In Obuasi.

Contagious Diseases Hospital ..	Completed.

A scheme for a new segregation area was drawn up and approved. The whole area, amounting to nearly one million square yards, was cleared, one mile and a half of roads was made, and building was commenced.

Excellent progress was made, reflecting the greatest credit on the Public Works Department, whose work, indeed, throughout Ashanti was worthy of praise.

Coomassie Town.

The following table shows revenue collected during 1913, as compared with previous years :—

	1910	1911	1912	1913	Increase(+)or decrease(−) 1913 as compared with 1912
	£	£	£	£	£
Rents of Town Plots	1,554	1,854	1,941	2,035	+ 94
Rents of Zongo Plots .	508	620	699	736	+ 37
Market Rents ..	205	203	207	197	− 10
Slaughter House Fees	659	694	721	815	+ 94
Spirit Licences ..	1,290	1,340	1,590	1,680	+ 90
Beer Licences ..	6	4	6	4	− 2
Dog Licences ..	11	14	20	15	− 5
Totals £	4,233	4,729	5,184	5,482	+298

The principal heads of revenue show a normal increase, with the exception of slaughter house fees, under which head the amount collected shows accelerated progress.

The increase in rents of town plots is mainly due to re-measurement of the areas leased, the actual plot occupied being usually greater than that stated on the lease. Seven new leases were issued during the year and eight cancelled. Twenty-two new plots were leased in the Zongo, and the lease of one plot was cancelled.

The deficiency under Market Rents is accounted for by the fact that some of the stalls blew down during the year and were not re-erected, and consequently were not leased.

Sanitation.

The sum of £2,450 was expended on works of sanitary improvement during the year and the following is a list of the completed works :—

State road—a concrete drain laid down each side.

Five new latrines built in brick and cement.

Bridge over Subin Stream built.

Four wells concreted, platforms built and wheel pumps fixed.

Twenty-four-inch concrete drain laid along Kingsway and Market Road.

One small latrine built for clerks.

The substitution of cement drains for the present unsatisfactory earth ones, and the provision of proper bridges and culverts are perhaps the most urgent of the sanitary problems requiring attention in the town. A drainage scheme for 1914 was projected, but has not been included in the Estimates.

A native surveyor was appointed and commenced his work in March. He was employed in surveying the section of the town for further building extension, and was also occupied in taking levels of the Subin in connection with the town drainage.

Sixty-five leases were renewed, the areas being measured and scale plans made. Fifty-eight building permits were granted.

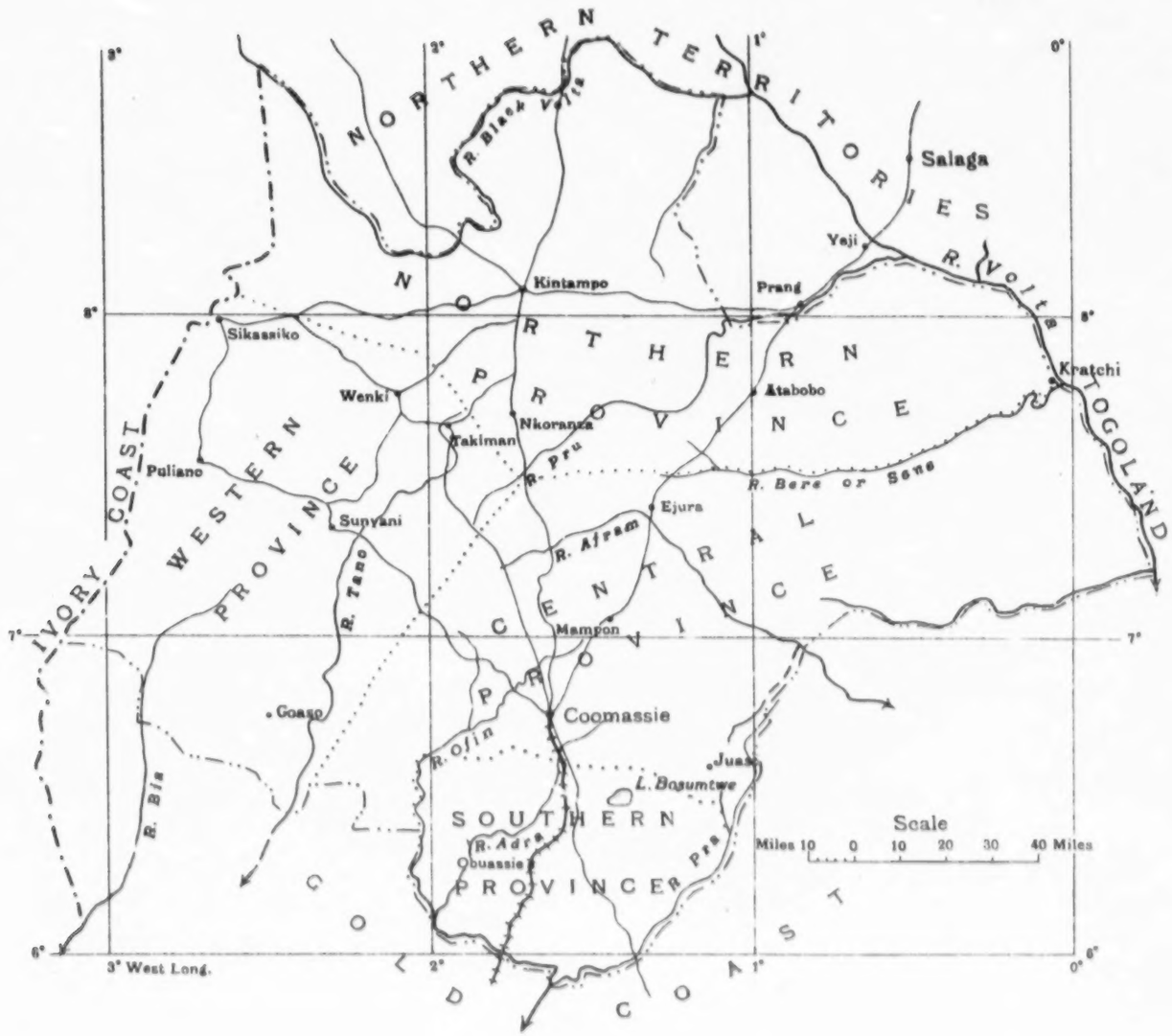
The French West Africa Company completed a fine new store on Kingsway during the year.

Sanitation was well attended to and the town was noticeably well kept.

The Acting Police Magistrate reports that the shortage of food supplies caused some anxiety and led in some cases to interception of the market women before they reached the market. This practice, which might have caused the village people to cease coming in, was stopped as much as possible.

A fine new meat market was completed and opened on January 1st, 1914.

MAP OF ASHANTI



C.O. N°48

Ordnance Survey, Southampton. 1914

A new slaughter house was opened and cattle are now slaughtered at nightfall, the meat being hung in a specially prepared room until morning.

This slaughter house is already too small, and will require doubling in size.

Wages.

One shilling per day, with 3*d.* for subsistence, continues to be the standard wage for unskilled labour, which now comes in in considerable quantities from the Northern Territories.

Skilled labourers, especially masons, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., are very scarce and can command high rates. The supply is not likely to meet the demand for a long time.

Living is cheap for the native as compared with the Colony. Foodstuffs are generally plentiful, and in the larger markets the prices are reviewed from time to time by the Commissioners in consultation with the local chiefs.

Prospects of Future Trade.

1913 was in all respects a good year for trade and there is reason to think that 1914 will be even better.

The cocoa output will go on increasing for some years, under present conditions and prices.

Money is plentiful and therefore all classes of general trade may be expected to flourish. The Northern Territories labour, which is coming down in such increasing quantities, takes back with it new ideas and wants, all of which must be supplied by Coomassie—the natural trade centre to which all the people from the north gravitate.

Suitability for Europeans.

The climate of Ashanti is not suited for permanent European settlement—the average stay in the country is twelve months, after which recuperation in a more bracing climate is necessary.

Employment cannot be found locally for Europeans and no one should come out without previous engagement.

The European community consists exclusively of officials, merchants, miners, and missionaries.

I have, etc.,

ARTHUR J. PHILBRICK,

Acting Chief Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	1912–1913
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	"
783	Jamaica	1912
784	British Honduras	1912–1913
785	Northern Nigeria	1912
786	Malta	"
787	Uganda	1912–1913
788	Mauritius	"
789	Straits Settlements	1912
790	Trinidad and Tobago	"
791	East Africa Protectorate	1912–1913
792	Grenada	"
793	Leeward Islands	1912
794	St. Lucia	1912–1913
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	"
797	Ceylon	1912
798	Gibraltar	"
799	St. Helena	1913
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	"
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"
805	Gambia	"
806	Gold Coast	"
807	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
808	Sierra Leone	"
809	Bahamas	"
810	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
811	Fiji	1912–1913
		1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oils, Oilseeds, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

No. 864.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 812.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1915.

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No. 864.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 812.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Accra,
30th August, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the report of the Chief Commissioner, Ashanti, for the year 1914.

2. In spite of the war the year has been one of continued trade prosperity, and there has been a marked advance in education, sanitation, and road construction.

3. The relations between the Chiefs and Government and with each other were very satisfactory throughout the year, and I have pleasure in bringing to your notice the practical loyalty exhibited by the Chiefs generally, and those of Kumawu, Agogo, and Kwaman in particular, at the time of the outbreak of war—a significant testimony to the wise administration of Ashanti by the Chief Commissioner, Mr. F. C. Fuller, C.M.G. I may also draw attention to the generous contributions of the Chiefs and people to the Imperial War Fund—a tangible expression of loyalty which they are now following up by the gift of an aeroplane to the Overseas Club.

As Mr. Fuller remarks, "Not the least gratifying factor in the attitude of the natives lies in the implicit trust displayed in the ultimate victory of the British Government—a trust engendered as much by conviction as it is by sentiment."

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
A. R. SLATER,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C204). Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 10.15. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp.11/2.

FINANCIAL.

The total Revenue collected in Ashanti during 1914 was £50,095, as against £49,882 in 1913, and £50,265 in 1912.

Of the £50,095, £20,759 was actually collected in Ashanti. The balance represents royalties paid by mines situated in Ashanti and sale of stamps, which are now adjusted at Accra.

The Revenue showed an increase of £213.

Increases to note occurred on the following items :—

	£	s.	d.
(i) Spirit Licences	220	0	0
(ii) Court fines and fees	526	17	5
(iii) Slaughter house and Cattle fees ..	175	19	6
(iv) Rents from Government lands ..	144	14	1
(v) Prison labour	619	12	0
(vi) Miscellaneous	371	8	11

Item (v) is explained by the fact that all prison labour is now credited to Prison Revenue; formerly only actual cash payments were so credited.

Decreases to note were shown under :—

	£	s.	d.
(i) Arms and Ammunition licences ..	143	8	0
(ii) Sale of Stamps	75	5	11
(iii) Mining royalties..	1,492	2	8

Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1910	37,621	117,398
1911	50,319	146,317
1912	50,265	148,685
1913	49,882	162,159
1914	50,095	198,123

In the Expenditure for 1914 are included :—

Public Works Extraordinary, £42,243;

while the Revenue does not include :—

i. Duties on Imports.
ii. Proportion of profit on the Ashanti portion of the Railway.
iii. Registration, Survey and Stamp fees.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £885,529, as compared with £889,271 in 1913 and £745,000 in 1912.

This sum is made up as follows :—

Merchandise imported by railway	£618,529
Cattle	200,000
Sheep and goats	30,000
Dawa-dawa	14,500
Shea butter	7,500
Miscellaneous, including dried fish, hides, etc.	15,000
	£885,529

Goods imported over the railway amounted to a gross tonnage of 18,523, as against 22,406 in 1913.

Wines and Spirits.—All imported by railway, amounted to 1,895 tons, an increase of 115 tons on the previous year.

Dried and Smoked Fish.—The importation of native cured fish by railway showed a considerable decrease, viz :—588 tons as against 989 in 1913.

All information tends to point to the fact that 1914 was a bad fishing year.

The main roads used by cattle drovers are the Kumasi-Ejura, Kumasi-Kintampo, and Kumasi-Tekiman—all of them important trade roads.

Sheep and Goats.—91,522 head entered Ashanti from the Northern Territories, but considerably less than usual from the West.

4,641 were slaughtered in Kumasi during the year as against 4,319 in 1913, showing that the local supply in no way suffered.

Dawa-dawa and Shea Butter.—A large decrease in the importation of these articles is to be recorded—5,773 loads of dawa-dawa were imported as against 10,607 in 1913.

Only 7,458 loads of shea butter came down against 13,489 in the previous year.

Miscellaneous.—A large amount of miscellaneous articles such as native cloths, skins, fowls, native yarns, hats, etc., are imported into Ashanti from northern countries—the value of which is roughly estimated at £15,000.

Exports.

These consisted principally of gold, cocoa, kola, rubber, cattle, sheep, hides, and snails.

Their value is estimated as follows :—

Gold	£481,270
Cocoa	350,000
Kola	180,000
Rubber	20,000
Cattle and Sheep	50,000
Hides	25,000
Snails	50,000
Miscellaneous	14,000
Total ..	£1,170,270

Gold.

113,286 ounces of gold valued at £481,270 were exported during the year, as against 111,838 ounces valued at £475,089 in the previous year.

Further details will be found under the heading "Mines."

Cocoa.

11,663 tons of cocoa were exported by rail, an increase of 2,970 tons, or of nearly 35 per cent. on the previous year. The estimated value to the native producers could not have fallen far short of £350,000 in spite of the decrease in prices paid owing to the war.

Railway freight to the value of £29,812 was paid in the year.

Kola.

2,303 tons of kola were exported by rail as against 1,674 in 1913—an increase of about 40 per cent.—most of it for the Lagos market. Freight amounting to £6,038 was paid on it.

55,690 loads were carried north from Ejura—but this is only one of the northern trade roads.

The large increase was due to the excellent crop of fruit.

It can safely be reckoned that 180,000 loads of kola nuts were exported from Ashanti at an average value of £1 a load.

Rubber.

The export of rubber fell to 275 tons for the year, as against 594 tons in 1913, valued at £20,000.

Cattle.

4,111 head of cattle were exported by rail during the year against 3,634 in 1913, besides 1,694 sheep and goats. This trade, including the animals exported overland, is estimated at £50,000.

Hides.

A total of 370 tons was exported in the year, as against 323 in 1913.

This is a growing industry and is steadily assuming important proportions.

The value of the 1914 export is estimated at £25,000.

Snails.

The exportation of snails is likewise an increasing trade from Ashanti. The snails are shelled, skewered on sticks and smoke-dried. When thus prepared they are considered a great delicacy by the natives. The best quality come from Wam and the Ahafo forest in Western Ashanti. They are brought to Kumasi whence they find their way all over the Colony.

No estimate has hitherto been compiled and the figures at disposal are scanty but they prove what an important item this industry has become.

Sheep, Goat, and Monkey Skins.

These form part of the item "Miscellaneous," but deserve special mention as articles of increasing importance.

Hides.

It is practically impossible to ascertain the quantity of hides imported into Ashanti, but the greater percentage of the amount exported can be said to have been introduced from the north and north west.

Cattle.

The number of cattle entering Ashanti from the Northern Territories shows a slight increase on 1913, but the estimate of 100,000 head for that year has been adhered to owing to the cessation of Bonduku (French territory) as a centre of supply.

14,674 cattle entered Kumasi, an increase of 552 on 1913. Of these, 4,793 were slaughtered in Kumasi against 4,681 in 1913; 4,111 were sent down by rail—543 to Obuasi and 3,568 to the Colony.

The Ashantis are fast becoming regular meat eaters and fresh meat can now be procured daily in every village of importance.

It is reckoned that 50,000 head of cattle were sold or slaughtered in Ashanti during the year, representing a minimum value of £200,000.

Bank of British West Africa.

The Manager reports as follows :—

"The business of the Bank continues to make satisfactory progress, indicating the increasing prosperity of Ashanti and its inhabitants and a greater confidence in the Bank.

"Whilst there is an increase in the number of native depositors, there are not as many as one expects or could wish for, taking into consideration the general prosperity and the amount of money flowing into the country in payment for produce, etc.

"The export of kolas by the Hausa population continues to increase in a satisfactory manner. The safety of remittances sent through the Bank for financing these people is much appreciated. There is also a satisfactory increase in the exportation of cocoa grown in Ashanti, but the low prices ruling owing to the war, caused less money to be in circulation during the latter half of the year.

"Trade was good on the whole, but the falling off in imports during the latter half of the year, due to the dislocation of the steamship services, caused some falling off in receipts, petty traders in particular suffering owing to their not being able to import cheap goods from Germany as heretofore.

"The cattle trade suffered somewhat during the early months of the war, as the Bank was unable to maintain a regular supply of French coin and gold, required by the Hausa cattle traders, but this was soon remedied and the trade has since assumed normal proportions."

The Commissioner of the Western Province reports :—

"Owing to French restrictions on kola and the consequent injury to the Bonduku market, fewer cattle passed through Sunyani than in former years, the Bonduku market being the source of supply for this locality."

A healthy and encouraging sign of the general improvement in trade is the rapid spread of small branch factories on the main trade roads radiating from Kumasi. Shops can now be found in villages that were scarcely known a few years ago, except to the administrative staff.

The Ashantis welcome these branches. They pander both to their pride and convenience and enable them to dispose of their produce locally at prices lower by the transport charges only than those obtainable in Kumasi.

The most striking and encouraging feature of the year's trade was that an increase was shown in both imports and exports in bulk as well as in value in spite of the five months of warfare in which the Empire was engaged.

Such testimony to the soundness of the Colony's commerce could only have been proved under conditions implying a complete command of the seas such as has been established by Great Britain.

AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.

The cultivation of cocoa is spreading, if anything too rapidly, with the result that farmers often possess more area under cultivation than they can properly care for.

The export during 1914, 11,660 tons, was nearly 35 per cent. higher than that of 1913, mainly due to new trees coming into bearing. A marked improvement in the fermentation of the beans was noticeable, especially in the Ashanti-Akim District.

The cocoa crop is estimated at 35 per cent. greater than the previous year. Owing to the fall in prices due to the sudden dislocation of trade caused by the war, a certain percentage was not tendered for sale.

The average price before the war was about 20*s*. a load of 60 lb. This fell to about 12*s*. for the last five months of the year. The year's average has been taken at 15*s*. a load.

The question of transport assumed serious proportions—the fact being that the industry has outstripped the existing transport facilities of the country. Casks can only be rolled for limited distances outside Kumasi and motor lorries are practically restricted to one road. The great bulk of the cocoa has still to depend on head carriage for transport to the central market.

The new road branching off the main North Road of Ntonsu for a distance of ten miles to the village of Afiduasi, proved of invaluable assistance to the merchants to cope with the congested state of affairs at the latter village.

During the year twelve representatives of various native divisions attended courses at the Agricultural Station in Kumasi in the cultivation and preparation of cocoa, after which they returned to their homes with the avowed object of disseminating as much as possible of the knowledge they had acquired.

Disease still prevails on the farms, particularly brown and white root fungus, thread blight, and canker. The trees have, further, to contend against insect pests such as "Sankonuabe Akate" and cocoa mosquitoes.

Rubber.

This trade is gradually decreasing to insignificant proportions, as long since foretold, only 275 tons having been exported during 1914, as against 594 in 1913.

The principal causes of this decrease must be attributed to (*a*) the original overtapping of trees, and (*b*) the great influx of cultivated or plantation rubber, against which the roughly coagulated latex of the *funtumia elastica* is unable to compete.

Kola.

1914 proved an excellent year for this popular nut. 2,303 tons were exported by railway, against 1,674 in 1913. This does not mean, however, that this trade is increasing, but merely that the year's crop was extraordinarily good. The quantity exported must necessarily fluctuate with the year's crop.

Nearly all the above stated amount was exported to Lagos by steamer for transmission to the all absorbing markets of the hinterland.

This represents 85,978 loads of 60 lbs. weight and does not take into account the enormous quantity exported to the north by head transport.

Tobacco.

Tobacco is only grown for local consumption and in small quantities. It has not as yet figured as an article of export.

Shea Butter.

The collection of this fat for exportation has not yet been seriously attempted. The present transport facilities do not allow sufficient profit to encourage the industry.

Large tracts of country in the northern part of Ashanti are waiting to be exploited, but this can only be done when cheap transport is available.

Whatever trade exists in shea butter at present is intended for local consumption.

Agricultural Station.

Applications for Para rubber plants were not numerous, but, on the other hand, a large number of seeds were distributed free of charge—424,400, besides 115 lbs. of *funtumia* seeds.

The demand for cocoa plants increased—some 2,400 of these being distributed during the year. 4,085 lbs. of dry cocoa were sold for £50 17*s.* 6*d.*

The Para rubber section showed an increased girth of 3·4 inches per tree of those tapped on the herring bone, and of 4 inches of those tapped on the half spiral systems.

Among other tropical plants and fruits experimented with may be mentioned cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon grass, coffee, kola, sugar-cane, sisal and Mauritius hemp, cocaine, castor oil, guinea grains, ginger, groundnuts, and native corn.

Two courses for teachers were held as usual.

Rain fell on 97 days with a total of 46·61 inches for the year.

INDUSTRIES.

MINES.

During 1914, the amount of gold obtained by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was 113,286·23 oz. of fine gold, valued at £481,270, as compared with 111,838·42 oz. valued at £475,089 in 1913.

(*a*) *Mining.*

Name of Company.	Ounces of fine Gold recovered.		Value. £	s.	d.
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation	105,240·30	..	447,092	0	0

(*b*) *Dredging.*

Ashanti Rivers and Concessions	198·09	..	841	0	0
Offin River Gold Estates, Limited	7,847·84	..	33,337	0	0
Total	113,286·23	..	£481,270	0	0

The average amount of labour employed daily by the mining and dredging companies was:—

	Surface.	Under-ground.	Total.
Europeans	80	44	124
Natives	2,393	1,281	3,674
Total	2,473	1,325	3,798

During the year work was carried out on the Miradani Concession by the Ashanti Rivers and Concessions, Limited.

MANUFACTURES.

Weaving, basket-making, pottery, and goldsmiths' work are common throughout Ashanti, but only for local requirements.

FISHERIES.

The only fish trade in Ashanti emanates from Lake Bosumtwo, otherwise known as the Sacred Lake, but this is practically all for local consumption.

The small lake fish are dried and smoked and are very popular as an article of diet among the Ashantis.

LEGISLATION.

Nine Ordinances were enacted during the year 1914.

EDUCATION.

The Government Primary School at Kumasi continued a hitherto unbroken record of prosperity.

A new building containing two class rooms was added and became available for the use of the pupils in October. There are now five buildings—four for use as class rooms and one as a workshop for instruction in woodwork.

The school accommodation still proved inadequate, however, a large number of children having been refused admission during the year on that account.

Agricultural and recreation grounds are attached to the school.

There was a marked increase in the average attendance, as the following table shows:—

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Percentage attendance.
1913	306 ..	77·8
1914	320 ..	86·0

Percentage of:—

Ashantis	52·9 against	49 in 1913.
Fantis	29·7 „	34 „
Accras	6·0 „	8 „
Miscellaneous ..	12·84	

A new Girls' School consisting of one building with two class rooms, was opened by His Excellency the Governor in the month of March. It commenced with 19 girls and ended up the year with 62, whose average attendance was 85 per cent.

Percentage of girls attending school:—

Fantis	51 per cent.
Ashantis	34 „
Accras	5 „
Miscellaneous	10 „

The Headmaster, Mr. Evans, was in charge of the school eight months of the year; the Principal Teacher, Mr. Muller, supervised it for the first four months.

The good discipline and high tone of the school were maintained.

Government School at Sunyani.—This School progressed satisfactorily. 78 pupils were on the books at the commencement and 83 at the close of the year, with an average daily attendance of 82·5 per cent.

These are the only Government Schools in Ashanti as yet.

Mission Schools.

Basel Mission.—25 Elementary schools, with 760 pupils, as against 730 in 1913.

Wesleyan Mission.—11 day schools with 585 pupils, against eight schools with 526 pupils in 1913. Besides these there are 11 Sunday schools with an attendance of 1,122.

Catholic Mission.—Two schools with 222 pupils.

Church of England Mission.—One school, which started at the beginning of the year with seven pupils, had 181 pupils at the end of the year, with an average attendance of 100.

Zion Mission.—One Sunday school with an attendance of 76 pupils.

Education in Ashanti is so far only popular in the Central and Southern Provinces, where the natives can best realize the value of knowledge, owing to constant contact with Europeans and educated natives. Chiefs appear anxious for their sons to learn all they can at the schools available, so that their progeny may be in a position to compete with literate coast people and no longer remain at the mercy of alien clerks.

This remark does not apply, however, to the Chiefs in the more remote parts of Ashanti, where the natives are, generally speaking, averse from sending their children to school.

They appear to hold the view that an educated child is lost to the family and tribe owing to the foreign habits and modes of thought it may acquire at school. Ignorance and not ill-will is the cause of this unfortunate point of view.

In the Central Province, on the other hand, the general demand of the Chiefs is for more undenominational schools.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

The only Government Hospital for Europeans in Ashanti is in Kumasi. Hospitals for natives are established at Sunyani, Obuasi, Kintampo, and Kumasi.

Two new wards and quarters for native nurses were added to the Kumasi Native Hospital.

At Sunyani a new hospital for natives was completed early in the year and a new out-patient building in December.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals are provided at Kumasi and Obuasi.

No Asylum exists in Ashanti. Violent cases are sent to the Accra Asylum.

Savings Banks.

Post Office Savings Banks are in operation at Kumasi and Obuasi.

Kumasi.	Number of Depositors ..	298.		
	Value of Deposits	£3,137	6*s.*	0*d.*
	—an increase of £397 on 1913.			
Obuasi.	Number of Depositors ..	65.		
	Value of Deposits .. .	£2,238	1*s.*	0*d.*
	—an increase of £334 over 1913.			

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The Police force in Ashanti on December 31st, 1914, numbered 127, as against 110 in 1913. The total authorised strength for Ashanti is 140. In addition, there are eight railway police stationed at Kumasi and Obuasi, whose duties are confined to the railway; and two mines police for the use of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation.

The efficiency, discipline, and general conduct of the police were satisfactory, though the first was slightly impaired by trained men having to be sent to Accra, owing to the outbreak of the war, and replaced by recruits.

During the year, 472 prosecutions were instituted by the police in Kumasi against 426 in 1913. In Obuasi, 382 prosecutions against 282 in 1913. The increase can be accounted for by the fact that more police were at the disposal of the Commissioners, who could, therefore, conduct investigations with greater facility and result.

The police were successful in breaking up an important gang of stealers and receivers of gold at Obuasi.

Crime is not on the increase, but more efficient police supervision accounts for more cases being brought to justice.

Prisons.

Kumasi.—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 327, including females, against 297 in 1913.

The number of debtor prisoners admitted was 122, viz:—96 males and 26 females. The number of untried prisoners was 81 males and two females.

The crimes committed were as follows:—

Murder	8
Manslaughter	11
Rape	7
Wounding	18
Robbery with violence..	6
Burglary	6
Assault	29
Larceny and other offences	242

Offences against prison discipline were generally of a minor character with the exception of six cases in which flogging had to be resorted to.

The health of the prisoners was good. Admissions into the prison infirmary were 14—all for slight cases of illness, excepting four cases resulting in death.

There were no executions at the Kumasi Prison—all prisoners suffering the extreme penalty of the law being sent down to Sekondi for execution.

Expenditure for the year was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Permanent warders	822	7	7
Temporary warders	133	4	9
Prisoners' rations	374	5	6
Other charges	83	8	1
Total	£1,413	5	11

The nominal earnings of prisoners came to £1,493 10*s*. 0*d*., while the actual sum earned was £657 13*s*. 2*d*.

Prisoners were employed generally on sanitary work, carpentry, laundry, and basket-making.

There were 10 escapes during the year ; of these two were recaptured.

Eleven long-sentence prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, Sekondi, as were also seven condemned prisoners, and 19 short sentence prisoners were sent to Obuasi prison.

The prison was in charge of a senior chief warder, with eight second class warders, seven third class warders, and one matron.

The prison was kept clean and in good order. Good discipline was maintained.

Obuasi.—The total number of prisoners committed was 255, viz :—

147 Convicts.
83 Untried.
25 Debtors.

The offences committed were stealing, forgery, defrauding, unlawful possession, wounding, and other offences.

Health of the prisoners was good. There were 11 admissions to the Colonial Hospital during the year. No deaths.

The Expenditure was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Pay of permanent warders	430	12	11
Pay of temporary warders	95	8	9
Prisoners' rations	270	3	4
Prison appliances	0	17	0
Total	£797	2	0

The nominal prison earnings show £638 3*s*. 7*d*. Actual sum paid into Government chest £202 19*s*. 7*d*.

There were four escapes during the year and seven recaptures. This refers to escapes of previous years as well as those of 1914.

The prison, which is a model of neatness and design, was well kept and the discipline was good.

Sunyani.—There were 172 admissions to the Sunyani prison during the year and 158 releases, with a daily average of 14·63.

The prison is situated within the Fort.

Kintampo.—52 prisoners were admitted during the year; 45 discharged or transferred.

Daily average, 11.

The Kintampo prison is a large and commodious building well suited for the purpose it serves.

Ejura.—The Ejura prison admitted 23 prisoners in the year.

There were 29 discharges and 5 transfers.

Daily average, 6·2.

Goaso.—A prison building was completed at this District Headquarters, but only in time to admit one or two prisoners before the end of the year.

Criminal Cases.

The following table gives a list of the criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and indicates the manner in which they were dealt with :—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner's	53	6	47	—	—
Commissioner, Central Province	7	—	7	—	—
District Commissioner, Central Province ..	106	22	78	—	6
Police Magistrate's ..	1,681	77	1,602	—	2
District Commissioner, Ejura	63	8	54	—	1
District Commissioner, Juaso	119	16	96	—	7
Commissioner, Southern Province	638	121	511	—	6
Commissioner, Western Province	243	81	159	—	3
District Commissioner, Wenchi	51	13	36	—	2
District Commissioner, Goaso	53	4	47	—	2
Commissioner, Northern Province	178	41	131	—	6
District Commissioner, British Kratchi ..	34	2	32	—	—
Totals ..	3,226	391	2,800	—	35

an increase of 588 over last year.

Serious crime was as follows :—

Murder	cases	8
Manslaughter	,,	15
Attempt at murder ..	,,	6
Burglary	,,	6

1,980 civil cases, distributed as follows, were disposed of during the year—an increase of 311 over last year :—

Chief Commissioner's Court	52
Commissioner, Southern Province	452
Commissioner, Western Province	230
Commissioner, Northern Province	64
Police Magistrate's Court	613
District Commissioner, Central Province ..	213
District Commissioner, Juaso	128
District Commissioner, Ejura	84
District Commissioner, Goaso	42
District Commissioner, Wenchi	102
	1,980

The "fees and fines" of Court during the year amounted to £3,541 19*s*. 8*d*. distributed as follows :—

Chief Commissioner's Court	£202	10	7
Commissioner, Southern Province ..	528	10	3
Commissioner, Western Province ..	333	17	11
Commissioner, Northern Province ..	72	3	6
Police Magistrate's Court	1,045	16	0
District Commissioner, Central Province	715	7	6
District Commissioner, Juaso	355	18	7
District Commissioner, Ejura	219	7	6
District Commissioner, Goaso	25	0	10
District Commissioner, Wenchi	43	7	0
	£3,541	19	8

an increase of £1,162 18*s*. 0*d*. over last year.

The Concessions Court held three sittings during the year.

Six Concessions were certified as valid and thirteen were abandoned.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Census of 1911 gave Ashanti a population of 287,814 made up as follows :—

Males ..	141,231	Adults ..	170,761
Females ..	146,583	Children ..	117,053
	287,814		287,814

but this figure is considerably below the actual population of to-day, which is rapidly increasing.

The same census returned a native population for the town of Kumasi of 19,000.

The estimate of the Medical Officer of Health for December, 1914, was :—

Natives—(approximate) ..	24,000
Europeans	95
Syrians	58

The Native population is divided up into (roughly) :—

Ashantis	4,000
North Country people	12,000
Gold Coast Regiment and followers ..	2,000
Fantis and kindred tribes	4,000
Miscellaneous, including Europeans ..	2,000
	24,000

The European residents during the year were :—

	Kumasi.	Other parts.	Total.
Official	106	53	159
Unofficial ..	113	194	307

There were 95 Europeans in Kumasi at the close of the year, 193 in the Southern Province, and eight in other parts.

The decrease in the white population from 120 in 1913 to 95 in 1914 was due to the war. Several Europeans usually stationed in Kumasi left on active service.

Public Health.

Europeans.—The general health amongst the Europeans was satisfactory. One European official died from appendicitis at Sunyani and four were invalided.

The death-rate was 6·28 per thousand and the invaliding rate 25·12.

Six European non-officials died and sixteen were invalided. Of this number the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation at Obuasi accounted for five deaths and 11 invalidings. The causes of death were :—Blackwater fever, 2; yellow fever, 1; hyperpyrexia, 1; heart failure, 1; strangulation, 1.

Death-rate	19·54	per thousand.
Invaliding-rate	52·11	,,

There were 58 admissions into the European Hospital and 82 out-patients.

Among the 58 Syrians in Kumasi one died of acute nephritis during the year.

Natives.—Officials numbered 131.

There were no deaths and no invalidings.

There were 1,179 admissions to hospitals.

Dispensaries dealt with 10,750 cases.

Blackwater.—No cases among officials.

Four cases among non-official Europeans with two deaths.

No cases recorded among the natives.

Yellow Fever.—No cases among officials. Two with one death, and two probable cases with one death among non-official Europeans.

Trypanosomiasis.—Seven cases reported in Ashanti with three deaths; three result unknown and one improved. Five of these cases occurred at Sunyani, one at Obuasi, and one at Kumasi.

Small Pox.—A small outbreak occurred at Ayenim Mine—eight cases in all, among natives. There were no deaths. Besides the above two cases were reported at Kumasi and one at Sunyani.

During the year 3,444 primary and re-vaccinations were performed by the Government Vaccinator—2,208 on males and 1,236 on females. Of these 2,618 proved successful and 255 were not inspected. The majority of persons vaccinated were children.

Enteric Fever.—Only three cases reported. One non-official European recovered. Two native cases with one death.

Dysentery.—102 cases with two deaths. This is a fairly common disease, and is generally of the amoebic variety.

Leprosy.—Eight cases reported in all of the anaesthetic variety. But there can be no doubt that the disease is prevalent among the natives, especially in the vicinity of the Sacred Lake.

Malaria.—475 cases recorded, as follows:—

Tertian	35	
Quartan	34	
Aestivo-Autumnal ..	77	(one death)
Unclassed	329	
	475	

The general health of Europeans and natives was good. No epidemic occurred, and only one small outbreak of yellow fever and another of small-pox.

Sanitation and Climate.

The sanitation of Kumasi was controlled by a Medical Officer of Health assisted by a European Inspector and native staff. Kumasi enjoys the reputation of being a remarkably clean and well kept town.

The sanitation of Obuasi was undertaken by a Sanitary Committee under the presidency of the Provincial Commissioner.

Kintampo and Sunyani were both in charge of the Medical Officers stationed there for the time being.

The rainfall throughout Ashanti was considerably less in 1914 than in the immediate previous years.

Kumasi only had 44·52 inches of rain, as against 55·9 in 1913, with a mean temperature of 74·44 degrees and a relative humidity of 84·66; Sunyani, 43·50 inches of rain, with a mean temperature of 76·5 degrees and a relative humidity of 80·13; Kintampo, rainfall 54·98 inches, temperature 74·76, relative humidity 59·17 degrees.

Obuasi.—A rainfall of 72·98 inches, mean temperature 72·43.

Generally speaking, the sanitation of the Ashanti villages is rapidly improving. All appear eager to improve their towns and many applications are received for overseers to cut streets, align buildings, set aside refuse heaps, etc.

The Ashanti is cleanly in his person and is quickly learning to become more particular with regard to his material surroundings.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Services—Daily between Kumasi and the Coast; bi-weekly to Ejura and the Northern Territories; weekly to the other out stations.

The service generally was well maintained.

The *Kumasi Post Office* handled the following postal matter:—

	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and Post Cards	110,946	124,007	234,953
Book Packets and Newspapers ..	20,467	29,815	50,282
Registered Articles ..	10,984	10,421	21,405
Parcels	3,648	8,943	12,591
Totals ..	146,045	173,186	319,231

Obuasi Post Office.

	Forwarded.	Received.	Total.
Letters and Post Cards	46,296	59,708	106,004
Book Packets ..	2,220	32,100	34,320
Registered Articles ..	15,052	3,472	18,524
Parcels	480	5,028	5,508
Totals ..	64,048	90,308	164,356

The remaining offices in Ashanti, viz:—those at Chichiwere, Nkoranza, Kintampo, Atebubu, and Sunyani handled 15,991 articles in all.

The Telegraph service was well maintained under severe pressure since the outbreak of war. Credit is due to the whole staff in Ashanti for the manner in which the members responded to the unwonted strain placed upon them. 121,652 messages were received and sent by the stations in Ashanti.

Total Post Office receipts for the year, exclusive of Savings Banks, amounted to £31,769 6*s*. 7*d*. as against £37,795 16*s*. 8*d*. in 1913—a decrease that can only be accounted for by the outbreak of hostilities and a strict censorship.

RELIGION.

The following Missions are established in Ashanti, viz:—The Wesleyan, Basel, Catholic, Church of England, and Zion.

The *Wesleyan Mission* consisted of one European missionary, two ordained native ministers, nine catechists, seven day school teachers, one carpentry instructor, and one sewing mistress. The baptised community of adults and juniors numbered 1,459. They own 22 day and Sunday schools.

The *Basel Mission* numbered approximately 1,800 full members and 750 children. The staff consisted of three European ministers with their wives and children, and thirty native ministers and catechists. They own 30 chapels and schools in Ashanti.

The *Catholic Mission* consisted of two European priests, two teachers, two monitors, with eight chapels, and 792 adherents, divided between Kumasi and Obuasi.

The *Church of England* has made rapid progress during the year and now boasts of a fine school-church, 120 feet long by 25 broad. The priest in charge and a native catechist have the care of a congregation numbering about 250 souls.

The *Zion Mission* consisted of one minister controlling two churches and a total membership of 155, besides a day and a Sunday school.

The relations between Christian converts and their Ashanti kindred can only be described as surprisingly good, considering that the Christians are distributed all over the country, and have to live in close contact with their heathen brethren.

Occasionally a convert refuses to continue to carry out his hereditary "fetish" obligations and arbitration ensues. Both parties are responsible for this enviable and improved condition of affairs—the converts for their desire to live in peace and amity, the Chiefs for their praiseworthy toleration.

The Ashantis follow a sort of "animism." This is a mixture of ancestor worship and "fetish" rites and superstitions, but they view other creeds with composure and a certain amount of sympathy.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Native Affairs.—Relations between the Government and Chiefs and people generally were marked by cordiality.

No disturbance of a serious nature is to be recorded for 1914. Even inter-tribal disputes have decreased in number and importance. The enhanced value of land is the cause of 90 per cent. of these disputes. But instead of trying to settle them among themselves by force of arms as was formerly the case, the arbitration of the Commissioners is now eagerly sought for.

In the *Central Province* the only Division that disturbed the political serenity was that of Juaben, owing to friction between the Omanhene and his people, but towards the end of the year relations had somewhat improved.

The new station of Juaso, the head-quarters of the Ashanti-Akim District, has proved most popular with the natives of the Bompata, Juaben, Kumawu, and Obogo Divisions. All parties appear to appreciate the new administrative district and gave the Commissioner invaluable assistance in his building operations and public works generally.

The Omanhene of Aguna suffered from extremely bad health throughout the year, but he nevertheless attended to his public duties and the general welfare of his people.

The Omanhene of Ofinsu died in December after a long and lingering illness. His demise can only be regarded as a relief both to himself and his people.

The Omanhene of Obogu was destooled early in the year and a new Chief elected in his place.

The Commissioner of the *Western Province* reports as follows:—

"The Chief of Nkwanta, Kwamin Damte, was destooled after an exhaustive enquiry.

"The hostility to inclusion in the Wenchi sub-district, at first shown by the Jaman Chiefs, considerably lessened during the year.

"The settlement of a boundary between Tekementia and Ofinsu led to threats of intertribal disturbances between the tribes concerned, which were, however, much exaggerated and did not materialize.

"The conviction of a witch doctor in Ahafo for murder is expected to have a salutary effect on others, of whom there are many, of the same persuasion.

"Friction of a not serious order occurred between the Chiefs of Odumasi and the Omanhene of Wenchi and Tekiman. Their disputes had been settled at the close of the year.

"The Chief of the Suma Division of Jaman died at Wirimi.

"A land dispute was settled between Jemo and Nkwanta.

"The long standing dispute between Bedu and Selwa was settled by agreement, Bedu losing rights to Jaman land and seceding to Wenchi."

An excellent piece of work was performed during the year at Wenchi, the head-quarters of the District of that name, where the laying out and plotting of a new zongo, or alien native settlement, was commenced.

This is the largest alien settlement in the country; it consists of Wongaras, Jiminis, Moshis, Hausas, Yorubas, and many more tribes, and promises to become a model for all others as well.

Goaso, the head-quarters of the Ahafo district, was practically completed by the end of the year. The wisdom of opening up a station in this out of the way part of the Province has manifested itself by the improved condition of the villages, the keener interest displayed by the inhabitants in commerce, and the general contentedness prevailing among them.

In the *Southern Province*, a new Chief of Akrokerri was enstooled. There were no intertribal disturbances of any sort.

The *Northern Province*.—The elderly and incompetent Omanhene of Atebubu was destooled by general request of his people. The village has been properly laid out since and the population is increasing.

The War.—Special mention should be made here of the unanimous and deep loyalty expressed by all the Ashanti Chiefs towards their Sovereign and Government on the outbreak of war. The feeling was spontaneous and sincere, and proved highly gratifying to the European Staff, the members of which have for years worked among the natives and attested to this growing loyalty.

Expressions willingly gave place to deeds when assistance was called for. Thus, the Kumasi Chiefs provided 600 carriers at short notice; a service of day and night runners was established and, above all, scouts were thrown out as far as the Volta River by the Chiefs of Kumawu, Agogo, and Kwaman, who deserve special mention for their exemplary and laudable conduct.

These three Chiefs own most of the Afram plains. On the outbreak of hostilities a report was spread that the enemy were trying to organise raids into Ashanti. The three Chiefs (at the instigation of the Commissioner) at once took action and formed a cordon of scouts 200 strong, under Kumawu leadership, from British Kratchi to Aframsu, and all their warriors remained under arms in case of necessity.

These three Chiefs have been specially mentioned, not on account of their pre-eminent loyalty, but because, owing to their geographical position, more tangible work fell to them to perform. Under similar circumstances all the Ashanti Chiefs would have displayed equal ardour and zeal to assist the Government.

Contributions towards the Gold Coast War Fund have been characterized by liberality.

By the end of the year considerably over £5,000 had been either paid or promised towards the fund.

One Chief, the Agunahene, offered the whole of the year's cocoa crop of his Division towards the fund.

Needless to say this disproportionate generosity was not encouraged.

The Chief of Adansi, Kobina Foli, presented £1,000 towards the fund.

Not the least gratifying factor in the attitude of the natives lies in the implicit trust displayed in the ultimate victory of the British Government, a trust engendered as much by conviction as it is by sentiment.

Roads.

The Superintending Engineer of the Kumasi-Ejura road reports as follows :—

"In May, 1913, the road was inspected by His Excellency the Governor, and in accordance with his subsequent recommendations, the Secretary of State decided that the surface improvement should be carried out only as far as a distance of 35·73 miles, the work to be completed by the end of 1914.

"The work has proceeded continuously since November, 1912, except for a period of some six weeks in August and September, 1914, when all the labourers were employed as carriers in connection with the military operations in Togoland, and was completed in all respects on 20th November, 1914.

"Between miles 5 and 18, and 25¼ and 28¼, no laterite quarries could be located, and granite was therefore used in its place, for an approximate length of 16 miles, the remaining 19·73 miles being almost entirely laterite.

"The latter owing to slight crushing under the rollers gives a better running surface, but probably will not wear so well as the granite.

"It was originally intended to give the metalling a width of 16 feet throughout, and a distance of 10 miles was completed on this basis.

"Subsequently, stone becoming scarce, quarries being far distant from the road and each other, and laterite non-existent, the width was reduced to 14 feet from motives of economy. This width, proving ample for all practical purposes, was retained for the remainder of the work.

"The nominal thickness of the metalling is 3 inches, this being increased where necessary to restore the original camber to the road.

"An attempt has been made to make the camber steeper than the grade as far as possible, with very satisfactory results. In the absence of any soleing, the surface obtained is naturally largely dependent on the nature of the sub-grade, but the average surface throughout is distinctly good, and up to date is wearing well.

"The estimated cost of labour only, which was necessarily framed without any previous experience as a guide, was £500 a mile. The actual cost worked out at £397 a mile approximately.

"The saving on the estimate is mainly due to greater good fortune in the location of suitable outcrops of stone in the northern section of the road under treatment, than was experienced in the sections near Kumasi, on the cost of which the estimate was based. Increased skill in the use of quarrying tools by the labourers also materially contributed to this result.

"The European staff has consisted throughout this work of the Superintending Engineer, the Accountant and Storekeeper, and two non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers as overseers.

"Since December, 1913, only one overseer has actually been employed on the work of metalling.

"In August, 1914, Mr. E. C. Spencer, Accountant and Storekeeper, and Sergeant B. Boniface, R.E., Overseer, left the Colony with the Expeditionary Force and have not since returned.

"Throughout this work, the supply of labour has been in excess of the requirements of the department.

"The work appears to be very popular with the natives, and the strict adhesion to the principle of personal payment by officers only is of undoubted utility in gaining their confidence.

"The majority of the labourers continue to come from the Northern Territories and northern Togoland, although the Ashantis turn out in fair numbers in the neighbourhood of their own particular villages.

"The general development of the country traversed by this road is still in its infancy. When the construction of this main artery to the north was approved, that part of Ashanti through which it was to pass, was a thinly populated region, and almost entirely undeveloped.

"Since the completion of the road and the importation of motor lorries, there has been a marked and ever-growing extension of all the villages, and an inspection of the neighbouring forest reveals a concentration on the cultivation of cocoa, which should show a very considerable development in the near future.

"Up to the present time, the chief traffic on the road has been between Kumasi and Agona (Mile 22), whither the cocoa from the Afiduasi district has been transported.

"With the completion of the new road to Afiduasi, this large and increasing traffic has been diverted to the neighbourhood of Ntonsu (Mile 14) and for some time to come the heaviest traffic will be on the first 14 miles of the road. It is therefore, perhaps, a matter for congratulation that the major portion of this distance is surfaced with the more durable kind of stone.

"Owing to the use of cars between Kumasi and Ejura, the Transport Department has been able to reduce the time required for the delivery of mails to the Northern Territories by three days, with a corresponding reduction of expense.

"During the development of mobilization in accordance with the Local Defence Scheme in August, 1914, the saving of expense and the improvement of communications rendered possible by the existence of 61 miles opened to wheeled traffic, was very marked and of material benefit to the military authorities."

With regard to the Ntonsu-Afiduasi extension he reports:—

"The district of which the village of Afiduasi is the nominal centre, is one of the largest producers of cocoa in Ashanti. Up to the present time, owing to the impossibility of rolling barrels along the old road to Kumasi, the only means by which the cocoa could be brought to railhead was by rolling in barrels to Agona (Mile 22 on the Ejura Road), an approximate distance of 12 miles, and thence transporting it in lorries and barrels to Kumasi.

"A request was therefore made by the Kumasi Chamber of Commerce for the construction of a branch road, which would not only diminish the mileage but enable lorries to run through to the village of Afiduasi.

"A certain amount of preliminary survey was undertaken in 1913 in order that an estimate might be framed, and that there should be no delay in putting the work in hand in the event of the construction being authorised.

"The money was voted for this work during 1914, and work was begun on April 16th. All work was discontinued on August 4th, owing to the mobilisation of the labourers for transport work in connection with the military expedition to Togoland, and re-opened on October 23rd. On December 1st, with the assistance of temporary deviation bridges, the road was opened for light traffic.

"Owing to the abolition of the department and to the above-mentioned delay caused by the military operations, it was found impossible to complete the semi-permanent bridges before the end of the year. The road has, however, been handed over to the Public Works Department, complete in all respects except for the actual construction of three bridges, for which the major portion of the timber has been sawn.

"The road branches from the Ejura Road near the village of Ntonsu, at a point 14¼ miles approximately from Kumasi. The choice of this point was determined by the existence of the watershed along which the Ejura road runs to this point.

"The new road is exactly 10 miles in length. It follows a watershed for the first 2¾ miles of its length, after which it traverses the valleys of three streams to a point near the village of Juaben (21¼ miles from Kumasi). The remaining 2¾ miles follow another watershed into the village of Afiduasi.

"The old path from Ntonsu to Afiduasi has an approximate length of 12 miles, and traverses some very broken country. It was therefore found impossible, without seriously increasing the length of the road and the cost consequent thereon, and also building a greater number of bridges, to follow accurately the line of the existing villages.

"Consequently, with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, the aim of the survey was to find the best road line from an engineering and economical point of view, although the desires of the inhabitants of the most important villages were gratified as far as possible.

"In this connection, as showing the popularity of the work undertaken by this department, the Superintending Engineer was given a free hand by the villagers to demolish any houses or cut down any cocoa plantations which would enable him thereby to bring the road through or near their villages.

"(*a*) The width of the road is 16 feet between cutting edges of ditches.

"(*b*) The ruling gradient is 1 in 20, but this has only been used for a total length of 367 yards.

"The following brief description of the method of survey employed, is appended for general information. After preliminary reconnaissance, from which the general plan is decided upon, a rigid traverse is run in the required direction, and accurately levelled at every 100 feet.

"From this main line branch lines are cut at intervals, which are approximately levelled by clinometer.

"The word approximately is used above only in its comparative sense. Experience has shown that levelling by this method, as compared with the more accurate instrument, gives an average error of less than one inch over a distance of 100 feet.

"From these branch lines, the contour of the neighbouring country is obtained, from which the road line is produced by junction cuts and grading.

"The net result of these operations is that from the original traverse in the approximate final direction of the road, the surrounding country for an average distance of a quarter of a mile in all directions is thoroughly explored and contoured.

"After the line is cleared, the final centre line of the road is laid out with the theodolite, and levelled at every 100 feet, from which the earthwork details are issued to the overseer.

"Only true curves have been employed with super-elevation of three inches at the curve top.

"A complete record of all details of the road line, levels, grades, curves, culverts, bridges, and mileage has been handed over to the Public Works Department.

"*Bridges and Culverts.*—As previously mentioned, three bridges remain to be built.

"Four culverts have been constructed, and no more are required. In accordance with His Excellency's instructions, these have been built entirely of hard wood, except the floors, which have been consolidated with rammed stone. They have been very solidly built and should have a life of several years.

"The approximate cost of each culvert is £11.

"The establishment of the department was not increased for this work. From motives of economy and as a valuable experiment, each overseer was entrusted with more than double the number of gangs previously allotted to any one man. On occasion, each of the two overseers has been in charge of more or less scattered working parties of over 700 men, representing a total cost of about £40 a day. As the overseer's salary does not amount to £1 a day, this represents a very low percentage of supervision charges for this Colony, and it is submitted that the corresponding low cost of the work reflects credit on the energy and keenness of Serjeant Boniface and Corporal Massie, of the Royal Engineers, the two overseers in question.

"Throughout the period of construction of this road, more labour has been forthcoming than could be satisfactorily employed.

"The estimate, based on the cost of the Ejura road, was £500 a mile. The decrease in the width of the road, combined with the increased experience of the overseers in supervision and of the labourers in the use of tools, caused the work to be considerably cheaper than was anticipated. The expenditure up to the time of handing over was £3,022, representing an average cost per mile of £302. It is considered that the construction of the three bridges should be effected without difficulty for the sum of £278, bringing the total cost of the road to £3,300, or £330 a mile.

"The saving of cost of transport of cocoa from Afiduasi to Kumasi works out at 35*s.* a ton.

"The delivery of 2,000 tons of cocoa will, therefore, represent more than the entire capital cost of the road.

"On December 1st, 1914, when the road was opened for light traffic, there were 400 tons of cocoa collected in the vicinity of Afiduasi as the result of one month's buying.

"Since the opening of the road, also, owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour for the work of barrel rolling along native roads, the area tapped by the new road has extended as far as Agogo and Bompata."

District Roads.

Some 170 miles of district roads were built during the year. The principal being between :—

Kumasi—Tappa (Boundary),
Juaso and surrounding villages,
Ejura—Nkoranza,
Wenchi—Menge,

and roads radiating from Goaso.

These roads, although not intended for vehicular traffic, are used by enterprising motorists to an appreciable extent. Motor cars have penetrated as far north as Wenchi, but this speaks more for the pluck and perseverance of the drivers than of the use the roads can be put to, both bridge and road work being of the roughest and only costing an average of £20 a mile, clearing included.

The political value of these roads is important and the moral influence they exert on the minds of the natives is highly beneficial to the administration.

Railway.

Inwards goods traffic decreased from 22,406 tons in 1913 to 18,523 tons in 1914.

26,386 tons of firewood were hauled for the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation for short distances within Ashanti.

Outwards goods traffic (exclusive of firewood) amounted to 16,757 tons, against 14,254 in 1913, an increase of 2,503 tons.

Passenger Traffic.—174,994 passengers were booked in and out of Ashanti during the year, a decrease of 33,504 on the previous year. The value of the traffic was £28,417.

A survey of the Kumasi-Accra Railway Extension was carried through the Central Province of Ashanti at the commencement of the year.

Forestry.

The three Forest Reserves in Ashanti, viz., the Pra-Anum, the Obogu, and the Kumawu-Agogo, were all inspected by the Forestry Department during the year, but no additions were made.

The Conservator remarks:—

"The teak and sissoo plantations in the Ashanti reserves will not be extended and only a minimum of expenditure incurred in weeding them occasionally.

"The original intention was to plant up blanks and old deserted farms in these reserves with teak and sissoo, and not to cut down dense forest growth although composed of worthless species, but Mr. Chipp, who was deputed to start these plantations, apparently not finding blanks, selected such areas as were composed of inferior stock and started operations.

"Both teak and sissoo are doing well, but to extend these plantations would be a costly and unnecessary work, as the stock of the reserves can be improved by other sylvicultural operations than that of substituting exotics for indigenous species."

Transport Department.

The following table gives the particulars of the work done by the Department during the year:—

Number of loads despatched by railway	1,349
,, ,, ,, distributed in Ashanti	4,400
,, ,, ,, to Ejura by motor	7,863
,, ,, ,, sent to Northern Territories ..	2,520
,, ,, ,, moved in Kumasi	8,653
,, ,, carriers conveying officers in Ashanti including troops	1,039
,, ,, passengers to Ejura	564
,, ,, mails moved to and from station ..	5,000
,, ,, carriers sent with mails	330
,, ,, mails by motor to Ejura	998
,, ,, carriers engaged on contract for Government	2,091

The motor service between Kumasi and Ejura worked well throughout the year and really facilitated the work of the Department.

Veterinary Department.

During the year, 1,616 cattle were inspected by officers of the Department.

Several cattle died from pleuro-pneumonia. The description showed an increase of 210 head over the inspection of 1913.

During the year 12 cattle were bought for the live-stock farm in Kumasi—all of the unhumped variety. These cattle are the beginning of a Government herd under the Department. Of the twelve, three died and one was killed, as it was suffering from bovine pleuro-pneumonia. At the close of the year there were in the herd:—one bull, four cows, two heifers, and two heifer calves.

The number of cattle inspected for exportation by railway was 4,021, an increase of 401 over the total for 1913.

Kumasi Town.

The following table shows the Revenue collected during 1914 as compared with previous years:—

	1911	1912	1913	1914	Increase (+) or decrease (−) 1914 as compared with 1913
	£	£	£	£ s.	£ s.
Rents of Town Plots	1,854	1,941	2,035	2,159 0	+124 0
Rents of Zongo Plots.	620	699	736	757 0	+21 0
Market Rents ..	203	207	197	304 15	+107 15
Slaughter House Fees	694	721	815	837 14	+22 14
Spirit Licences, Kumasi Town ..	1,340	1,590	1,680	1,810 0	+130 0
Beer Licences ..	4	6	4	4 0	
Dog Licences ..	14	20	15	13 0	−2 0
Totals £	4,729	5,184	5,482	5,885 9	+403 9

The increase in town rents is due to remeasurement of areas: 14 new leases were granted and five cancelled.

In the zongo, five new plots were granted and two cancelled.

The increase in market rents was due to the opening of 24 new meat-stalls at a rental of 30*s*. a quarter, as opposed to 16 old stalls at 9*s*.

The population of the town is now roughly 24,000, made up of Ashantis, Fantis, Accras, Hausas, Moshis, Wongaras, Yorubas, and many more alien tribes.

The total number of criminal cases heard during the year was 1,681, an increase of 518 as compared with 1913. Sanitary cases showed an increase of 512. 613 civil cases were heard, an increase of 26 on 1913. The year began with 66 and ended with 78 police.

The town limits were extended by half a mile in every direction with the consent of the Kumasi Chiefs, and the extension was surveyed and demarcated before the end of the year.

The development of the township on the Ejisu road is proceeding well and a new English church (S. P. G.) was commenced and finished in the year in that township.

Buildings on the European reservation—a high and spacious ridge to the south-west of the town—proceeded as fast as material considerations permitted. Thirteen sets of quarters are at present being erected thereon and many more will follow in course of time.

The following are the figures of animals slaughtered for human consumption:—

Cattle	..	..	4,681
Sheep	..	..	682
Goats	..	..	3,637
Pigs	..	..	229

Fees collected amounted to £815.

The new slaughter-house has proved a great success. Slaughtering was only permitted between the hours of 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. The meat is stored overnight in the store room attached to the slaughter-house and sold next day in the market. What was tried as an experiment resulted in an unqualified success; the quality of the meat has improved considerably.

During the latter months of the year fees for slaughtering showed a decrease, due, no doubt, to the war.

The butchers in Kumasi carry on a credit system with the cattle dealers and many of them fall heavily into debt. The dealers, having gained their experience through bitter experience, now refuse to part with their cattle unless ready money is produced.

Animals were all slaughtered with a humane cattle-killer and the meat was inspected after slaughtering.

During the year the following meat was condemned :—

6 whole carcases of cattle.
408 pairs of lungs.
125 livers.
6 spleens.
385 other parts.

The new meat market was completed and opened in the early part of the year. All the stalls were let.

The food generally has been good and abundant. A shortage of cattle was reported in the latter part of the year, but the butchers themselves were mainly responsible for this.

Sanitation of Town.

The following sanitary improvements were carried out during the year :—

6 Incinerators for zongo.
3 ,, ,, Ashanti town.
12 Refuse sheds for incinerators.
5 New double latrines.
Concreting Meat Market.
Fixing pump to Cape Coast Road well and a few minor items such as culverts.

The total expenditure on these works was £2,292 4*s.* 1*d.* Only £2,000 was voted for Kumasi sanitary improvements, but this was supplemented by another £300.

In addition to the above, 600 yards of concrete drain was laid down at the foot of the European Reservation bridge.

Considerable progress was made in reclaiming the swamp in the valley of the Subin stream. Part of the ground so reclaimed has been turned into a recreation ground.

Sixty-eight building permits were granted during the year. In every case the permit was submitted to the Medical Officer of Health previous to being sanctioned by the police magistrate.

During the year £1,950 was spent on scavengers and labourers and £497 on clearing Government lands.

The European Reservation, the new township and reclaiming of land all added to the large area to be kept cleared. Much land that was dense forest in 1913 is now cleared and planted with dubh grass.

The European water supply is obtained from a spring known as "King's Well." The water is fairly good. A new and improved type of water drum was issued to officials.

The natives of Kumasi proper obtain their water mostly from 11 public wells which are under the control of the Sanitary Department. There is only one public well in the zongo. Nearly every compound there has a private well. Storage of water in tanks and barrels is discouraged. No tanks are allowed on building permits.

A preliminary investigation for the Kumasi water supply on a large scale was held during the year.

Public Works.

Progress of work during 1914 was good on the whole.

Total expenditure for the year :—

	P. W. R.	P. W. E.	Total.
Kumasi ..	£2,106 11 5	£32,628 13 10	£34,735 5 3
Kintampo ..	90 16 7	1,180 1 11	1,270 18 6
Sunyani ..	87 4 3	4,019 6 5	4,106 10 8
	£2,284 12 3	37,828 2 2	40,112 14 5

The principal items were :—

Recurrent.—Minor works, current repairs, maintenance of town and district roads, tanks and wells, lamps and lamp posts, and special repairs to roofs.

Extraordinary.—

Kumasi :—	New quarters for Commanding Officer	Completed.
,,	Contagious Diseases Hospital ..	,,
,,	Native Hospital Extension	,,
,,	Quarters, Type "A"	,,
,,	Completion of lines for one Company	,,
,,	Quarters, Type "C"	Nearly completed.
,,	Quarters, Type "C"	,,
,,	Clearing and laying out reservation area	Completed.
,,	Four Quarters, Type "B"	Completing.
,,	M. O. H's. Offices and Stores ..	Completed.
,,	Additions to Quarters	,,
,,	Motor Garage..	,,
,,	Additions to Native Hospital ..	,,
,,	New Latrines for troops	,,
,,	Extension of Boys' School	,,
,,	Six Bungalows, Type "C"	in progress.

Several hundred yards of concrete drain and various sanitary improvements	.. ..	Completed.
Kintampo :—	Quarters, Type "B"	,,
,,	Dispensers quarters	,,
,,	Magazine Guard Room	,,
,,	Quarters for Provincial Commissioner	,,
,,	Quarters for District Commissioner	,,
Sunyani :—	Quarters for Provincial Commissioner	,,
,,	Quarters for District Commissioner	,,
,,	Quarters for Medical Officer ..	,,
,,	Native Hospital	,,
,,	Dispensers Quarters	,,
,,	Magazine Guard Room	,,
,,	Government School	,,

Both Obuasi and Kintampo were shut down as far as the Public Works Department was concerned, all temporary projected buildings having been completed.

Much work was accomplished by the Department in spite of shortage of materials occasioned by the war.

Wages.

One shilling a day, with 3*d.* for subsistence, continues to be the standard wage for unskilled labour, which now comes in in considerable quantities from the Northern Territories.

Skilled labourers, especially masons, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., are very scarce and can command high rates. The supply is not likely to meet the demand for a long time.

Living is cheap for the natives as compared with the Colony. Foodstuffs are generally plentiful, and in the larger markets the prices are reviewed from time to time by the Commissioners in consultation with the local Chiefs.

Prospects of Future Trade.

The year was good for trade and showed an increase in bulk and value over that of 1913, in spite of temporary dislocation caused by the outbreak of hostilities.

The cocoa output surpassed that of 1913 by 35 per cent. This industry is in the hands of the natives and promises extraordinary powers of expansion as more plantations come into bearing.

Money is plentiful, necessaries cheap, luxuries dear. The enormous influx of traders from the north indicates the trade prosperity of the country.

The Ashantis can be called a rich people. They are inclined to hoard their wealth, although they spend liberally on stated occasions.

Large sums of money are made by alien middlemen, especially in the cattle and kola trades.

Suitability for Europeans.

The climate of Ashanti is not suited for permanent European settlement. The average stay in the country is twelve months, after which recuperation in a more bracing climate is necessary.

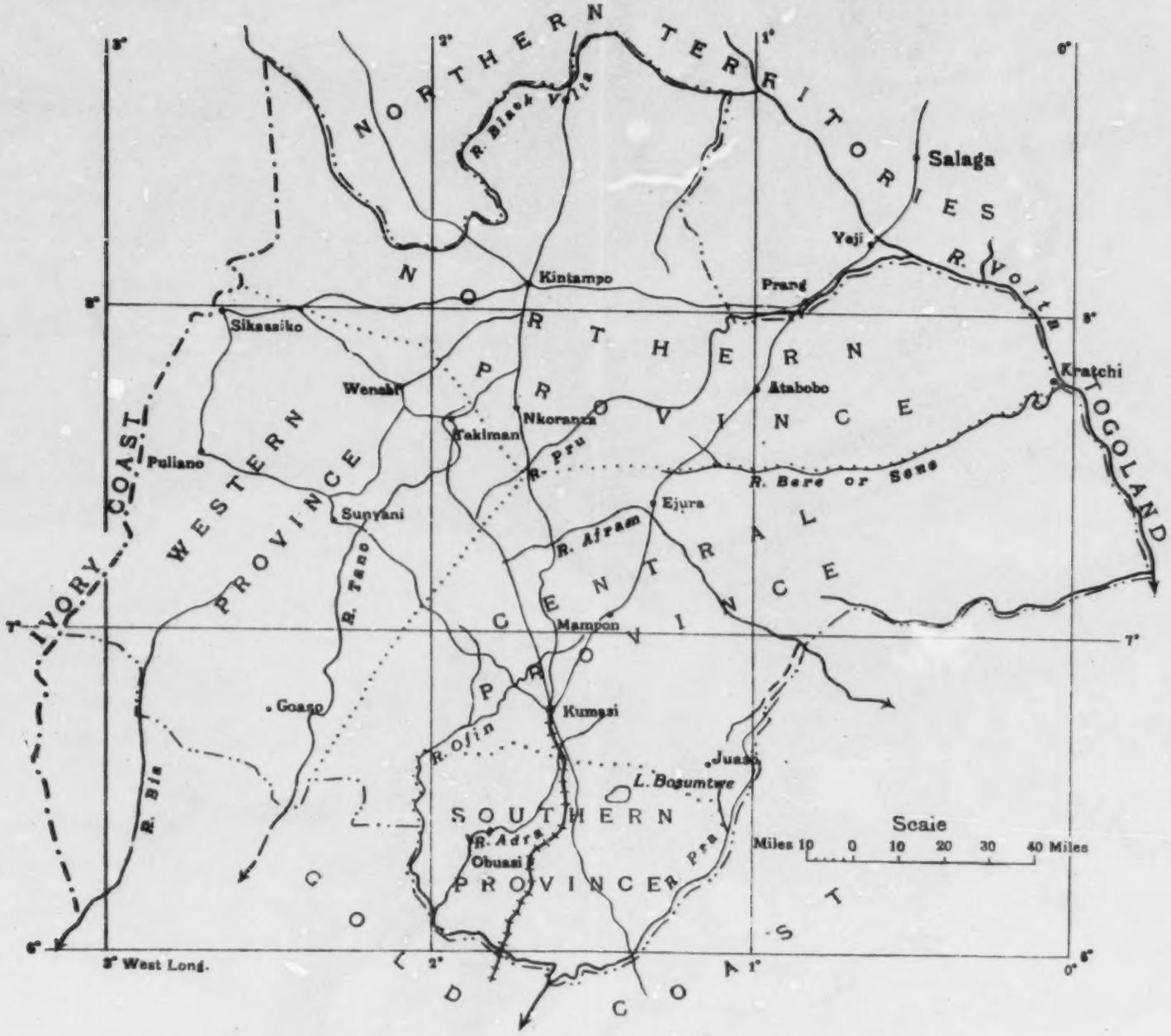
Employment cannot be found locally for Europeans and no one should come out without previous engagement.

The European community consists exclusively of officials, merchants, miners, and missionaries.

F. C. FULLER,

Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

MAP OF ASHANTI



C.O. N°48.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton. 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1913–1914
830	Swaziland	,,
831	Uganda	,,
832	Nyasaland	,,
833	British Guiana	,,
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	,,
837	Somaliland	,,
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	,,
841	Leeward Islands	,,
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
845	Weihaiwei	,,
846	Seychelles	,,
847	St. Helena	,,
848	Fiji	,,
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	,,
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	,,
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	1914
859	Gold Coast	,,
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	,,
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 893.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 864.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1916.

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No. 893.

ASHANTI.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 864.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Sanatorium, Aburi,
27th July, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the report on Ashanti for the year 1915, written by the Acting Chief Commissioner, Mr. A. J. Philbrick.

2. The absence from the report of any outstanding feature of interest may perhaps be regarded as a testimony to the tranquility of affairs in the Dependency during the second year of the upheaval in other parts of the world. You will see from the report that "internal trade in Ashanti was brisk throughout the year," and that the area under cocoa cultivation increased, largely—indeed, too largely for effective supervision.

3. The Dependency was practically denuded of troops throughout the year, but so satisfactory were the relations between the Ashantis and Government that not for one moment did this cause any anxiety to the Administration.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

HUGH CLIFFORD.
Governor.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C293) Wt.45316/1003. 1000 & 90. 9.16. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp.11/2.

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue in Ashanti during 1915 was £52,644, as against £50,095 in 1914, and £49,882 in 1913.

The revenue and expenditure for Ashanti for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1911	50,319	146,317
1912	50,265	148,685
1913	49,882	162,159
1914	50,095	188,123
1915	52,644	105,804*

*Exclusive of Gold Coast Regiment.

The revenue figures do not include the import duties on goods consumed in Ashanti, or the proportion of profit on the Ashanti portion of the railway.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £919,900, as compared with £885,529 in 1914, and £889,271 in 1913.

This sum is made up as follows :—

Merchandise imported by railway	£673,600
Cattle	175,000
Sheep and goats	30,000
Dawa-dawa	16,000
Shea butter	10,300
Miscellaneous	15,000
	£919,900

Goods of all classes imported over the railway amounted to a tonnage of 21,667, as against 18,523 tons in 1914. The freight earned amounted to £94,735.

1,830 tons of spirits entered Ashanti, being 65 tons less than in 1914, but the freight earned was £31,323, an increase of £2,975.

Fish imports showed a recovery over 1914, being 756 tons as against 588.

The freight earned was £2,091.

Cattle.—This trade cannot be accurately gauged. 39,200 head passed in from the Northern Territories, and a large quantity from French territory through the Western Province. Owing, however, to the increased requirements of the French themselves fewer cattle are reported to have entered the country than in previous years, and I have estimated the value of the trade at £175,000, instead of £200,000 as in 1914. The value per head, on the other hand, was £8 10*s.* instead of £5.

Sheep and Goats.—There was a decrease in the number of these animals coming from the north, but large herds entered from the west, and the supply was ample. The value was higher than in 1914, and I therefore keep the estimated figure as in that year, viz:—£30,000.

Dawa-Dawa and Shea-butter.—The returns show very considerable increases:—

	1914. (loads)	1915. (loads)
Dawa-dawa	5,773	6,373
Shea-butter	7,458	10,286

Under the head Miscellaneous is included a great variety of articles —cloths, skins, fowls, hats, guinea corn, etc.

EXPORTS.

Gold	£474,240
Cocoa	725,161
Kola	200,000
Rubber	20,135
Cattle and Sheep	25,000
Hides..	16,755
Snails	50,000
Miscellaneous	14,000
	£1,525,291

Gold.—111,608 ounces, valued at £474,240, were exported during the year, as compared with 113,286 ounces, valued at £481,270, in 1914.

Cocoa.—17,939 tons, valued at £725,161, were exported over the railway. The freight earned amounted to £48,760, an increase of 6,276 tons and £18,948 over last year.

Kola.—The kola traders say there has never been such a year for kola-nuts, either for amount or quality. An average price of 12*s.* 6*d* per 2,000 nuts obtained. The railway return shows a slight decrease. This arises from the traders being unwilling to risk the delays of shipping, etc., during war time. The bulk of this trade goes overland, and the number of loads is not checked.

Rubber.—317 tons were shipped over the railway, valued at £20,135. A small increase of 42 tons. The high price at the end of the year was the cause of this.

Cattle and sheep.—3,022 bullocks and 1,016 sheep and goats went down the railway; a considerable decrease over the previous year. This was caused by the scarcity of the animals, not from any lack of demand. I have estimated the value of this export at £25,000.

Hides.—193 tons of hides were exported, valued at £16,755. This trade also shows a decrease owing to the scarcity of cattle.

Snails.—1915 was a very prolific year, and immense quantities of snails were carried all over the Colony. There are no figures available.

Miscellaneous.—Including corn, cereals, skins of all kinds, except hides, is assessed at the same as 1914—£14,000.

Internal trade in Ashanti was brisk throughout the year. The high price paid for cocoa put more money than usual into the hands of the villagers. The trading firms continued their policy of expansion and there are now numerous villages boasting one or more stores, where a most varied assortment of goods can be obtained. Every big village now manages also to obtain a fairly constant meat supply.

The Bank of British West Africa Limited.—The manager reports:—

"Owing to the war the difficulties experienced by the merchants generally in obtaining cottons and other goods caused a slight set back in business in the earlier months of the year, but trade generally made a good recovery during the last few months of 1915.

"The low price paid for cocoa during the season October, 1914, to February, 1915, caused an accumulation of silver coin and it was anticipated that this would meet all likely demands for the 1915–1916 season; unfortunately this did not prove the case. Owing to the high price paid for cocoa at home and consequent increase of the local price, there was a serious shortage of silver coin during December, which was further aggravated by the fact that during that month no further supplies of coin were available from home. To meet the shortage of coin the West African Currency Board imported Treasury Notes, which, on being made legal tender, were bought by the Bank and placed into circulation.

"Unfortunately, the native, not being used to a paper currency, did not take kindly to them, and only a limited number were actually in circulation and they are exchanged as soon as possible for coin.

"Although the natives have been paid a high price for their cocoa this season, the number of depositors, so far, shows no material increase and is out of all proportion to the amount of money brought into the Colony.

"The heavy and protracted rain in Ashanti this year appears to be responsible for the increased amount of kolas handled by the Hausa community and for the increase in remittances from Nigeria.

"The cattle trade continues to increase in a satisfactory manner and large sums are paid out annually to the traders. The supply of French silver was well maintained during the year under review, but there was, as might be expected, difficulty in keeping the Hausa cattle dealers supplied with British gold.

"It is very satisfactory to see more European firms opening in Kumasi and a steady increase in business done each year."

AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.—The area of land under cocoa cultivation increased largely during the year. Wherever, under the system of shifting cultivation, a clearing is made for a new farm, young cocoa trees are now planted amongst the food-stuffs. This is done quite irrespectively of the number of previous farms the owner may have. Consequently, it often happens that he plants far more trees than he and his family can well look after. Constant warnings are being given against this practice, but up to the present they seem to have had little effect.

During the year 17,939 tons were exported, an increase of 6,276 tons over 1914. The increase in the crop, however, was not so marked as these figures would lead one to think, as owing to the inflated prices being paid the 1915–6 crop was rushed forward and marketed before the end of the year, whereas under ordinary circumstances much of it would not have come in until January or February.

This rush to obtain the high prices that were ruling, and which it was feared might fall at any time, caused the farmers to pick immature pods and to neglect fermentation, and I am informed by the merchants that the general quality of the beans was below that of previous years, while some special samples that were shown me appeared quite unfit for export.

The bulk of the crop in the Central Province comes in over the Effiduasi and the Bompata roads. Motors run over the whole length of the former, over the latter cars were running to Whiresu and Duaponpon during the latter part of the year, and materially helped to bring in the crop. Barrels were rolled further down the road to meet the cars.

The senior curator reports that in the Kumasi gardens the trees suffered somewhat from drought; and that generally throughout Ashanti there was a decrease in the yield and size of pod. 14·26 pods were required to make one pound of cocoa, as against 12·75 in 1914.

Tours by instructors were undertaken through all the principal districts, and lectures and demonstrations were given at all important villages. These lectures were well attended. Nine local cocoa instructors went through the course during the year; a scheme has been drawn up under which each instructor receives a list of villages which he has to visit monthly. In this way each village receives a visit about every three months.

An extract from the Travelling Inspector's report is appended:—

"*Cocoa*:—Whilst the area under cultivation was extended, I regret to report there was no noticeable progress made in the care of existing farms, insect and fungoid pests being allowed free play, pruning being still caried out in a careless manner, and the majority of the farms, except during the cocoa harvest, received little or no attention. Insect pests, particularly cocoa mosquito, *Helopeltis*, caused considerable damage to the crops during the latter part of the year, and in the Afiduase district a number of farms were almost ruined. An instructor was stationed in the district and carried out demonstrations on badly attacked farms, but unfortunately the owners did not continue the work and the treated trees are gradually going back into their original insect-infested condition.

"The two major pests of cocoa, viz:—*Sahlbergella sp.* and cocoa mosquito, *Helopeltis*, are widely distributed throughout the cocoa districts, and the latter was particularly severe. No practical remedy has yet been applied in dealing with this pest. Handpicking, whilst undoubtedly effective, is far too tedious a process to meet with the approval of the Ashanti farmers, who usually have a much larger area under cocoa than they can possibly hope to control.

"Travelling Officers reported numerous cases of root disease, *Hymenochaete*, thread fungus, *Marasiums*, and brown pod, *Diplodia*. The dangers of these pests were explained to the farmers, and whilst listening with apparent approbation to advice and instructions, the majority make no attempt to control them, as it entails a certain amount of labour which, to the farmers, appears unnecessary.

"Where the trees are free of pests and diseases they give good returns, and it is surprising, considering the wide distribution of the various pests and lack of control measures, that there are so many healthy areas of cocoa. Fortunately for the farmers the soil and climatic conditions are favourable to the growth of the trees and diseases do not appear to spread so rapidly as one would expect in such a humid climate. Nevertheless, should the increase of diseases remain unchecked, they will eventually have a disastrous effect on the industry.

"The crop generally was of poorer quality than the previous year. The beans of the middle season crop were small, and owing to the falling market a portion was gathered before the pods reached maturity; farmers being eager to dispose of their crops while prices were high. The heavy rains caused some difficulty in drying the early gathered crops of the principal season and the shortage of silver is responsible for a portion being held up. This, being insufficiently dried before being stored, reached the market in a mouldy condition. A large percentage of the crops received some fermentation; samples classed as F.A.Q. taken from bulk showed 50 per cent. of fermented beans."

Rubber.—317 tons of rubber were exported during the year. The increase is due to a renewed demand in Europe, caused by the exceptional conditions prevailing. When these conditions cease this trade may be expected to die down again.

The natives have shown little interest in planting out Para seedlings.

Kola.—The Travelling Inspector states the 1915 crop to be below the average, but kola merchants say the yield was very large, and the Bank Manager in his report states the trade to have increased.

The nuts were of exceptional size and quality. This trade is entirely in the hands of Mahommedans, who make immense profits out of it.

Shea Butter.—Improved methods of transportation will make the large tracts of land in the north which are covered with shea-nut trees profitable in future, but at present no use is made of this product for export. The fat obtained from the nut is used in the coast towns extensively, and a fairly large local business is done. No general record is kept, but 10,286 loads of this commodity are recorded as having passed into Ashanti.

Agricultural Station.—The Government Agricultu ral Station of Kumasi was well maintained during the year. Many thousands plants and seeds were distributed, in nearly all cases witho charge. Experiments in fermentation of cocoa were carried on, also as to the best method of tapping Para rubber trees.

The Curator undertook the planting of avenues on the new reservation, and three miles were completed.

The rainfall registered at the gardens was 57·71 distributed over 119 days.

There are two European agricultural companies in the Southern Province who have planted out large areas of cocoa and rubber.

One of these companies, "The Offin Rubber Plantations Limited," has now some 600 acres under cultivation.

90,000 Para trees, 25,000 Funtumia, 5,000 coffee (*Java robusta*), and 2,000 cocoa trees have been planted.

The oldest Para trees will be five years old in July next, and most of the trees are now twelve inches in circumference, and tappable.

The manager describes the Funtumia tree as a failure, as they appear to need at least twenty years before yielding commercially.

The manager also mentions that large swarms of locusts have appeared lately. He attributes this to the continuous clearing between the plantation and the Northern Territories.

Industries.

Mines.—The amount of gold produced during the year was 111,608·64 ounces, valued at £474,240 15*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with 113,286·23 ounces, valued at £481,270, in 1914.

The following Companies produced gold during the year :—

(*a*) *Mining.*

	Fine Ounces.	*Value.* £ *s.* *d.*
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation Limited	107,156·98 ..	455,330 5 8
Ashanti Rivers and Concessions Limited	96·21 ..	408 14 1

(*b*) *Dredging.*

Offin River Gold Estates Limited	4,355·45 ..	18,501 16 0
Total	111,608·64 ..	£474,240 15 9

The average amount of labour employed daily by the mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was :—

	Surface.	Under-ground.	Total.
Europeans	71	42	113
Natives	2,240	1,367	3,607
Total	2,311	1,409	3,720

Manufactures.—There are no manufactures for export, but weaving, basket-making, pottery, and goldsmith work are common. Some of the designing and workmanship, especially in the latter trade, is very ingenious and artistic.

Fisheries.—Quantities of small fish are caught in Lake Busumtwe, and when dried and smoked are esteemed as a delicacy and sold throughout the surrounding districts. The inhabitants of the villages adjoining the bigger rivers also live largely on a fish diet; otherwise there are no fisheries in Ashanti.

LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were enacted during the year 1915.

EDUCATION.

Government School, Kumasi. Boys.—The accommodation is inadequate, and large numbers of children were refused admission.

There are only seven class rooms for the seven standard classes, two sub-standard, and three infant classes.

315 boys were on the roll at the beginning and 390 at the end of the year. The average attendance has again increased to the satisfactory figure of 88·4 per cent.

Ashanti boys form 52·3 per cent. of the whole number.

The school was very successful during the year, and credit is due to the headmaster for its satisfactory condition.

A garden was attempted, but without very much success, owing to the poverty of the soil.

Girls.—The number of girls increased from 62 to 91.

This building, too, is quite inadequate for the numbers applying for admission.

Forty per cent. of the girls are Ashantis.

Generally the desire of the Ashantis for education is very marked.

Government School at Sunyani.—The attendance decreased from 87 to 74 with a daily average of 65·5. The school was well maintained, but difficulty is found in housing the children who come from the outside districts.

MISSION SCHOOLS.

Church of England.—A new school room formed by closing off the new church building was opened during the year.

There were 217 boys on the list at the close of the year, with an average daily attendance of 140. This school will receive a grant this year. It has a well-kept garden, where the boys receive instruction in growing economic plants.

Wesleyan Mission.—13 schools with a total of 617 children.

Basel Mission.—23 schools with 724 scholars, of whom 199 are Christians, the rest are heathen.

The schools at Kumasi, Antoa, Mampon, and Berekum received Government grants.

Roman Catholic.—4 schools, with a total of 340 children.

Zion Mission.—3 schools with 86 scholars, and four Sunday schools with 201 scholars.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

The Native Hospital at Kumasi, with accommodation for 76 patients, was completed in November. This is a model establishment.

A well equipped laboratory has recently been built in connection with the office of the Medical Officer of Health.

SAVINGS BANK.

Savings Banks are in operation at Kumasi and Obuasi.

RAILWAY.

The railway had a busy year in Ashanti. 21,667 tons of public goods were brought in and 23,913 tons were taken out; the latter figure shows an increase of over 7,000 tons.

	1914	1915
Inwards ..	18,525	21,667
Outwards ..	16,757	23,913

In addition, 21,760 tons of firewood were picked up along the line, and carried to Obuasi.

236,977 passengers were carried in and out of Ashanti, the value of the traffic being £36,713, a large increase on 1914.

The proposed extension was not proceeded with during the year.

The service of trains was well maintained.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The Police force in Ashanti on December 31st, 1915, numbered 124, as against 127 in 1914.

The total authorised strength for Ashanti is 131, excluding Railway Police on the line between Kumasi and Obuasi, and three Mines Police at Obuasi.

The efficiency, discipline, and general conduct of the police has been satisfactory.

During the year, 905 prosecutions were instituted by the police in Kumasi as against 472 in 1914, the figures for Obuasi being 610 and 382.

This increase is not so great as it appears, as each separate nuisance case has been counted, whereas previously many defendants were lumped together.

Prisons.

The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 590, including females, as against 327 in 1914.

The number of debtor prisoners was 123—91 males and 32 females. The number of untried prisoners was 110 males and one female.

Crimes committed were as follows:—

Murder	4
Manslaughter	15
Rape	10
Wounding	22
Robbery with violence	10
Burglary	11
Assault	15
Larceny and other offences	305
	392

Offences against prison discipline were of a minor nature generally, but in seven cases flogging had to be resorted to.

The health of the prisoners was good. The admissions into the Prison Infirmary were 16, and were all for slight cases of illness, excepting one case resulting in death, and two others in the Colonial Hospital. No execution.

The books were well kept and entered up to date.

The expenditure was as follows :—Permanent warders, £754 8*s.* 11*d.*, temporary warders, £141 7*s.* 6*d.*; Prisoners' rations, £438 7*s.* 2*d.*, and other charges, £44 3*s.* 6*d.*, giving a total amount of £1,338 11*s.* 1*d.* for the year.

The comparative earning was £956 8*s.* 6*d.*, while the actual sum earned was £576 3*s.* 10*d.*, which money was paid into the Government Chest.

The prisoners were employed generally in sanitary work, carpentry, laundry, basket-making, etc.

There were six escapes during the year, and of these three were re-captured.

The number of prisoners transferred from Kumasi prison during the year was as follows :—28 long-sentence to Central Prison, Seccondee, two condemned prisoners also to Central Prison, Seccondee, and 17 short-sentence to Obuasi Prison.

The prison was in charge of Senior Chief Warder J. N. Anthonio, who acted as Keeper of Prisons. There were also employed nine second class warders, four third class warders, and one matron.

There were three dismissals during the year.

The prison was kept clean and in good order and discipline fairly well maintained.

Obuasi.—The total number of prisoners admitted was :—

	1914	1915
Convicted	147	185
Untried	83	117
Debtors	25	19

Offences against discipline were of a minor character.

There were nine escapes and five recaptures.

The total cost for the year was £827 1*s.* 5*d.*, as against £797 2*s.* 0*d.* in 1914.

Nominal earning by prison labour showed £451 18*s.* 6*d.*, the actual sum paid in cash being £191 0*s.* 3*d.*, as against £202 19*s.* 7*d.* in the previous year.

Though there were more prisoners during the year, owing to the lack of funds to pay warders a considerable number of convicts were unable to be sent out to work on many days and had to be kept locked up. This accounts for the less amount of earnings.

Health was good ; there were thirteen admissions into hospital.

The prison was well kept and the discipline excellent.

Small prisons were maintained at Sunyani, Wenchi, Goaso, Kintampo, Krachi, Ejura, and Juaso, for the purpose of detaining short-sentence prisoners.

They were frequently inspected, and well looked after during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Census of 1911 gave Ashanti a population of 287,814 made up as follows :—

Males	..	141,231	Adults	..	170,761
Females	..	146,583	Children	..	117,053
		287,814			287,814

Since 1911 the population has undoubtedly largely increased.

The inhabitants of Kumasi are estimated to number 24,000 or more.

European residents during the year were :—

	Kumasi.	Other parts.	Total.
Official	92	28	120
Unofficial ..	96	192	288

There were 108 Europeans in Kumasi at the close of the year, of whom 29 were official and 79 non-officials. In the Southern Province there were 3 officials and 188 non-officials.

Public Health.

General health during 1915 was good on the whole. There were no epidemics among the people.

Europeans.—Among European officials the general health was good; the prevalent disease was malaria of a mild type. Eight officials were invalided, some of whom had completed more than twelve months. One of them died at Seccondee from cerebral apoplexy. There were no deaths in Ashanti during the year.

Non-officials. General health fair.
One died and four were invalided.

Natives.—Officials numbered 225. General health good.
No deaths; two were invalided.

Death and Invaliding Rates.

European Officials	..	6·6 per 100.
Native Officials ..	..	·88 „ „

33 Europeans were admitted to hospital, and 119 treated outside.

1,097 natives were admitted to hospital, and 10,425 treated outside.

SANITATION AND CLIMATE, RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE.

Kumasi.—A fall of 52·18 inches as against 44·52 in 1914, and 55·9 in 1913.

Mean temperature 76·86°, and degree of humidity 86·24.

The eagerness of the villagers to improve the conditions under which they live is very marked. Were competent inspectors available there would be no difficulty in remodelling most of the villages in the country.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Services—Daily between Kumasi, Obuasi, and the Coast; fortnightly and weekly to all other stations.

Telegrams were in many cases seriously delayed owing to faults in the lines. A scheme of general repair was begun during the year.

114,432 messages were received and sent during the year.

Total Post Office receipts during the year, excluding Savings Bank, amounted to £33,810, an increase of some £2,000 over last year.

RELIGION.

The Wesleyans, Roman Catholics, Church of England, Zionists, and Basel Mission maintain Missions in Ashanti.

There has been no trouble of any consequence between the Christian converts and their unconverted kinsmen during the year. The Ashanti is most tolerant to other religions.

GENERAL.

ROADS.

Central Province.—The Public Works Department was in charge of the roads from Kumasi to Ejura and to Efiduase. The surface and bridges were well maintained.

Between Mampong, Efiduase, and Kumasi there was a constant traffic of motors during the cocoa season.

A connection with Juaben was made during the year. This joins the Efiduase road, and gives the important centre of Juaben direct motor communication with Kumasi.

The Kumasi-Boankra-Wheresu-Juaso and Bompata road was regraded, widened, and rendered fit for motor traffic as far as Wheresu during the year. This was of great benefit to the cocoa industry. By the end of the year the improvement of the road as far as Juaso was well advanced.

Temporary bridges were erected over the Where and the Anum.

The Kumasi-Nkawe-Bibiani road was straightened, made wider, and regraded as far as Nkawe (13 miles). This will be available for motor traffic during the 1916–17 cocoa season.

Work was commenced on the Kumasi-Wenchi road to render this fit for motor traffic. 19 miles of this road, as far as Ofinsu, will be ready for next season.

The Kumasi-Tappa-Goaso road also had a considerable quantity of labour expended on it.

In the *Southern Province.*—The road from Bekwai-Pekki (12 miles) was widened and graded.

The road from Bekwai to Lake Busumtwe *viâ* Kokofu (12 miles) was reconstructed. This road is now fit for cycling and cask rolling.

The road from Bekwai to Mim and Nkwanta (30 miles) was completed. This taps a new cocoa country and was found to be of great utility. It is not fit for wheeled traffic yet.

Obuasi to the Prah *viâ* Banka and Kokoben (45 miles):—40 miles of these were completed. This road is now much improved, and fit for cask rolling.

All the other main roads in this Province were attended to, and credit is due to the Acting Provincial Commissioner for the especial pains he took over this important part of his work.

Western Province.—The Acting Provincial Commissioner writes—"the whole of this Province is being rapidly joined up by a network of ditched roads. Sunyani will shortly be joined with Wenchi, and next year should also see it joined up with Goaso."

Northern Province.—The road from Nkoranza to Ejura was finished. A road was completed from Kintampo to Banda.

Veterinary.

In the absence of Captain Beal on leave and at the war, Drs. O'Brien and O'Dea acted as Veterinary Officers.

Dr. O'Dea reports a considerable decrease in the number of cattle imported into Kumasi, 9,802 in 1915, as against 14,674 in 1914.

Various reasons are given for this, one that the French are needing more cattle themselves, and not allowing so many to leave their country, and another that Kumasi market is not popular among the dealers owing to the difficulty in collecting their money.

It was very noticeable that nearly every village of any importance throughout Ashanti had its regular meat supply, and I think the decrease in Kumasi may largely be accounted for by the fact that the dealers preferred to sell to villagers than to run the risk of inspection and bad debts in Kumasi.

The priced for humped cattle averaged £8 10*s*., as against £5 10*s*. in 1914.

2,949 cattle and 600 sheep and goats were sent down over the railway to Seccondee and the various mining centres.

87 diseased dogs were seized and 37 killed. Also three sheep and 29 cattle.

A small herd of cattle was maintained in Kumasi during the year.

Kumasi Town.

The Government area now extends 1½ miles from the fort in all directions.

The population amounts to about 24,000, largely consisting of people from the north, who are attracted to Kumasi by its trading facilities.

The Regiment was away during the year, but details and recruits left behind amounted to about 500 in number.

European residents numbered 29 officials, and 79 non-officials; there were also about 60 Syrians.

The development of the new township on the Ejisu road proceeds apace; some 900 yards of streets were made and planted on both sides with mangoes. The Ejisu road itself was widened to 40 feet to accommodate motor traffic.

Many houses of an approved type are being erected on this Township and it shows signs of becoming a high class native residential quarter.

Sanitation of Town.

The market buildings are now inadequate and in bad repair.

The drainage of the town has not been commenced with the exception of the West Subin, which has been concreted for much of its length from the rifle butts to the gardens.

As a whole the sanitary condition of the town was well maintained.

£1,440 was spent on sanitary improvements.

Obuasi Town.—Plans for drainage were approved by the Senior Sanitary Officer and the Superintending Engineer, but owing to delays in final approval of the scheme, work was not seriously begun at the end of the year.

The ordinary sanitary service was very efficiently carried out, and Obuasi fully upholds its reputation for being kept in a thoroughly cleanly state.

The pipe-borne water supply was in efficient order throughout the year.

The rainfall was 59·01 inches as against 76·46 in 1914, 65·95 in 1913, and 53·37 in 1912.

Public Works.

The Public Works Department took over the Kumasi-Ejura road on January 1st, 1915.

The expenditure for the year on Public Works was as follows:—

	Public Works Annually Recurrent.	Public Works Extraordinary.
Kumasi ..	£8,112 2 9	£11,464 5 10
Wenchi ..	nil	697 18 9
Sunyani ..	29 18 6	1,248 9 9

Amongst the Public Works Annually Recurrent were in

Kumasi:—Minor works at the Hospital Buildings, Government School, Military Store, Post Office, Public Works Yard, and Prison. Current repairs to many buildings, Town Wells, Roads, etc. Upkeep of travelling equipment.

Out-stations:—General repairs to Government buildings.

Public Works Extraordinary.

Kumasi:—Four sets of Quarters, type C, were completed and furnished; also the Government Girls' School.

Sunyani:—Two sets of Qnarters, the water supply tank, slaughter-house, and native hospital were completed.

Wenchi:— The new market and slaughterhouse were completed.

The work of this Department was well carried out during the year in spite of delay, due to the late arrival of cement.

The condition of the Public Works Yard and Store in Kumasi is much improved, and material is properly stored and looked after.

A large amount of sanitary work was done.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Agona Division.—On May 11th, the Omauhin of Agona, Kwami Buakyi, died. His successor, Kwesi Akyempon, was installed by the Chief Commissioner.

In September the Ohimba also died, and was succeeded by Adjuah Boatema.

The long-standing boundary dispute between this stool and Mampon was settled—it is to be hoped finally.

Offinso Division.—The new Omanhin, installed in 1914, has carried on the affairs of his division quietly and well.

Edjissu.—The Omanhin is of a weak and quarrelsome nature, and the fact that the Ex-Omanhin Yow Awua is alive and living in Kumasi seems to be very galling to him. There are frequent bickerings between the two men, which prevents this division from settling down and reaping the full benefit of its situation as the centre of the best cocoa district.

Kumasi.—Adabor, the Akyempimhene, died, and was succeeded by Osei Tutu, who shows signs of becoming a most dignified and competent Chief.

Juaben.—The long standing quarrel between Juaben and the Chief of Asokorri was settled by the latter being handed over to the Mampong Division.

This arrangement has been successful, and has pleased Asokorri, while it has given a salutary lesson to Juaben. Otherwise this Omanhin has conducted the affairs of his division quietly and well.

Kumawu.—In May the young men of this division put forward complaints that the Omanhin was keeping to himself the funds which had been collected for the War Funds. What might have developed into a serious riot was stopped by all funds collected being repaid, and a personal contribution from the Omanhin being accepted in their place.

The young men of this division have become rich through their cocoa farms, and are of a rather turbulent nature.

Bompata, Obogu, Mampon, and Nsuta.—The affairs of these divisions were quiet and prosperous during the year.

SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

Adansi.—This important division developed well. A claim to certain Dadiasi villages caused trouble with Kokofu, but the matter was dealt with promptly.

The question of the ferry over the Prah at Nsese was the subject of long negotiations, which ended in the ferry being declared public and free.

Kokofu.—The Chief of Assechere was destooled for incapacity, and a successor has not yet been appointed.

This division has also progressed well during the year.

Bekwai, Nkwanta, and Dengiassi were all quiet and prosperous.

Western Province.

The Chief and Fetish Priest of Mim in Ahafo were destooled and imprisoned for plotting against the Omanhin of Kukuom.

The Chief of Kwasinda in French Territory came across the boundary with some followers and two stools and tried to settle in Jaman. He was induced to return, and has been reinstated.

Northern Province.

No important incident occurred, the natives being contented and quiet.

Generally native affairs were satisfactory. What disputes occurred were almost invariably over boundaries, and arose from the increased value of land for cocoa-growing.

The growing importance of the "young man" class, through better education and increased wealth, is a factor that has to be taken into serious consideration.

A large number of resthouses have been erected during the year, and it is now possible to travel over most of the important roads without the discomfort of staying in the midst of a native village.

These houses are willingly put up by the natives, who like the Commissioners to halt in their villages, the only assistance from the Government being supervision, and in some cases the cost of the materials that had to be bought.

The exuberant loyalty of the Chiefs and people and their unshaken confidence in our cause continued throughout the year.

Practical instances of their feelings were given by their subscriptions to the War Funds.

£9,270 14*s.* 7*d.* was collected for the Prince of Wales's Fund, £3,126 7*s.* 1*d.* to purchase two aeroplanes, to be called Ashanti Nos. 1 and 2, and £948 6*s.* 4*d.* for the Red Cross Fund.

Collections for the latter fund were very largely made by the educated natives of Kumasi, who had in addition subscribed liberally to the other funds.

Substantial progress was made in providing better means of communication and improving the conditions of life in the villages, and 1915 may be described as a year of great prosperity for Ashanti.

WAGES.

1*s.* per day and 3*d.* subsistence is the standard rate for unskilled labour.

This largely consists now of Northern Territories men, who come down in constantly increasing numbers year by year.

Skilled labour is scarce and highly paid.

PROSPECTS OF FUTURE TRADE.

Future trade depends on the price, quantity, and quality of cocoa. The price depends on outside causes; there will be no lack of quantity, but improvement in quality is a question that must receive attention if the cocoa trade is to be retained.

A large business in kola is always assured. Its extent depends on the crop as the demand is far more than the supply.

The cattle trade depends on the supply which is allowed to come in from French Territory. The extension of the French railways behind the Northern Territories may seriously affect this trade, by diverting the cattle to the coast.

SUITABILITY FOR EUROPEANS.

The climate of Ashanti is not suited for permanent European settlement. The average stay in the country is twelve months, after which recuperation in a more bracing climate is necessary.

Employment cannot be found locally for Europeans and no one should come out without previous engagement.

The European community consists exclusively of officials, merchants, miners, and missionaries.

ARTHUR J. PHILBRICK,

Acting Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	,,
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	,,
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
864	Ashanti	,,
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	,,
867	Somaliland	,,
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
871	Barbados	,,
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	,,
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia	,,
891	Trinidad	,,
892	Hong Kong	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 949.

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REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 893.)

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FINANCIAL.

The total Revenue in Ashanti during 1916 was £44,824 as against £52,644 in 1915 and £50,095 in 1914.

Increases compared with the Estimates for the year, amounting to £4,854, are shown under the following heads :—

Spirits	£270
Court Fines and Fees	622
Obuasi Contributions	255
Rents from Government Lands	668
Sale of Stamps	2,669
Miscellaneous	253

Decreases amounting to £10,890 appear under heads :—

Firearms and Ammunition	£295
Mining Royalties	10,368*
Prison Labour	147

The Revenue and Expenditure for Ashanti for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
1912	£50,265 ..	£148,685
1913	49,882 ..	162,159
1914	50,095 ..	188,123
1915	52,644 ..	105,804†
1916	44,824 ..	91,751†

† Exclusive of Gold Coast Regiment.

The Revenue figures do not include the import duties on goods consumed in Ashanti, or the proportion of profit on the Ashanti portion of the railway.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

(1) Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £1,140,750 as compared with £919,900 in 1915 and £885,529 in 1914.

* The second half year's royalty (£10,000) due by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation was not paid till 1917.

(2) The total is made up as follows:—

Merchandise imported by Railway ..	£692,750
Cattle	350,000
Sheep and Goats	60,000
Dawa-dawa	13,000
Shea Butter	9,000
Miscellaneous	15,000
	£1,139,750

(3) Goods of all classes imported over the railway amounted to a tonnage of 22,701 as against 21,667 in 1915 and 18,523 tons in 1914.

(4) 1,709 tons of spirits entered Ashanti during the year, being 121 tons less than in 1915, but the freight earned showed an increase of £246.

(5) Fish imports amounted to 699 tons as against 756 in 1915, a decrease of 57 tons.

(6) *Cattle.*—A large increase in this trade was noticeable over 1915. In Coomassie alone the number rose from 9,802 to 14,799—while the increase recorded at Ejura amounted to 19,260. 77,656 head are said to have entered Ashanti, 53,979 *via* Ejura and the balance *via* Kintampo and Wenchi. The price in Coomassie averaged £9 a head but when reckoning the import value for the whole of Ashanti, half that sum will represent a fair average or, say, a total value of £350,000.

(7) *Sheep and Goats.*—An increase in the number of sheep and goats imported from the North is also to be recorded, some 100,000 of these animals having entered Ashanti during the year, the Coomassie price averaging from 20/– to 30/–, but not more than 12/– has been taken for the whole country.

(8) *Dawa-dawa and Shea Butter.*—Approximately 7,500 loads of dawa-dawa (a favourite article of food with up-country people) and 6,000 of shea butter were imported during the year, an increase on 1915 of 1,200 loads of dawa-dawa but a decrease of some 3,800 loads of shea butter.

(9) Under the head "Miscellaneous" is included a great variety of articles: cloths, skins, fowls, hats, guinea-corn, etc.

(10) EXPORTS.

Gold	£491,511
Cocoa	513,500
Kola	186,600
Rubber	36,700
Cattle and Sheep	50,000
Hides	10,700
Snails	40,000
Miscellaneous	8,000
	£1,337,011

(11) *Gold.*—115,704.21 ounces, valued at £491,511 9s. 9d., were produced during the year, as compared with 111,608.64 ounces, valued at £474,240 15s. 9d., in 1915, an increase of 4,096 ounces of a value of £17,271.

(12) *Cocoa.*—14,772 tons, valued at £513,502 were exported by railway. Freight earned amounted to £48,412. This shows a decrease of 3,167 tons on 1915.

(13) *Kola.*—1,630 tons were exported by railway as against 1,979 in 1915, but the latter year proved exceptionally prolific. In Coomassie the average price through the year was 25/- to 30/- per 2,000 nuts, or £50 to £60 a ton. The bulk of the trade goes North by carrier and donkey loads bought at trade centres and on farms. It is estimated that 2,770 tons were thus transported at an average price of £35 a ton. Total value £186,600.

(14) *Rubber.*—There was a decided improvement in the rubber industry during 1916, 654 tons having been exported as against 317 in 1915, valued at £36,732. Average price throughout the year 1/7d. a lb.

(15) *Cattle and Sheep.*—3,295 bullocks and 979 sheep and goats were exported by railway during the year, very much the same as in 1915, but large quantities skirt Coomassie and enter the Colony *via* Ashanti Akim. The value of the export increased considerably on 1915, owing to many more animals being available.

(16) *Hides and Skins.*—261 tons of hides and skins were exported by railway as against 193 tons in 1915, but the value thereof having decreased materially, only £10,700 can be reckoned to the credit of the Dependency as against £16,755 in 1915.

(17) *Snails.*—Were not so prolific in 1916 as in 1915. The supply of this delicacy varies considerably. The Wam product is much sought after and obtains the highest price. In Coomassie one stick of Wam snails averages 2/- (100 per stick).

(18) *Miscellaneous.*—Including corn, cereals, food produce and native commodities, is assessed at £8,000 as against £14,000 in 1915. This is due to the export of corn having fallen from 440 to 197 tons, owing to a general scarcity of this product in 1916.

(19) *Internal Trade.*—All things considered was remarkably brisk. Many new stores were opened in outlying villages by the enterprise of European firms, where the wants of the natives can be supplied, thus obviating the necessity for the latter to undertake long journeys to obtain goods.

(20) The Manager of the Bank of British West Africa in Coomassie reports as follows :—

"Trade generally in Ashanti increased during 1916 but there appeared "to be a slight falling off in the last few months of the year, due probably "to the 1916/1917 cocoa season starting late owing to the rains, as well as "the low price paid for cocoa as compared with the previous season, and the "unfavourable conditions at home.

"The kola trade with Nigeria continues to increase, the remittances "being in excess of any previous year.

"It is very disappointing to notice that, notwithstanding the increasing "prosperity of the Ashantis, very little use is made of the bank by the natives. "This may possibly be through suspicion and ignorance of the advantages to "be derived therefrom.

"In the latter half of 1916 the new West African currency notes were "placed into circulation. It is too early yet to say whether their use will "become general, but, at the present time, the up-country native prefers "coins to notes; his principal objection being the ease with which, when "hoarded, they get destroyed by insects, weather and fire.

AGRICULTURE.

(21) The area of land under cocoa cultivation may be said to be ever on the increase, but a setback was experienced towards the end of the year owing to the fall in prices, which caused the natives to discontinue further planting. This may, however, be regarded as a blessing in disguise, owing to the fact that they had formed the habit of reckless and indiscriminate planting, to the consequent detriment of the trees.

(22) During the year 14,772 tons were exported as against 17,939 tons in 1916, a decrease of 3,167 tons. This was in no way due to a decrease in the quantity produceable by the natives of the Dependency, but solely to the fall in prices, which so militated against the industry that many farmers did not even trouble to pick their fruit, while others refused to sell at such low prices, openly stating that they would rather lose all on a gamble for a rise in price than dispose of the beans for such poor returns. This in spite of frequent warnings and explanations as to the cause of the fall in the market.

It can safely be predicted, however, that when the market becomes normal again the output from Ashanti will show a large increase.

(23) The Travelling Inspector reports as follows:—

Cocoa.—"Tours by inspectors were undertaken throughout the cocoa area "of Ashanti, nearly every village being visited, repeat visits being made to all "important centres.

"Meetings were held with chiefs and farmers, and lectures and demon- "strations on the cultivation, sanitation of farms and preparation of the beans "for market conducted. The lectures were well attended but there was a "general lack of interest in the demonstrations, due entirely to the farmers' "objection to accompany the instructors to farms other than their own.

"At the beginning of the year extensive new areas were put under cocoa, "and millions of seedlings were raised to further extend the crops, but in many "cases these were not planted out.

"The farms on the whole were kept in better condition than during "the previous year—the cleaning generally being carried out in a more thorough "manner. This was particularly noticeable in the Southern Province where "many of the farms previously allowed to become overgrown were cleared "thoroughly. There are still numerous patches of cocoa trees at many of the "villages in a diseased, neglected and overgrown condition, usually the result "of planting in unsuitable sites, but the owners will not be persuaded that "these are a menace to the industry, and only in very few instances have "the instructors managed to persuade the owners to attend to them.

"Insect pests were on the whole less severe than in the previous year, but "both the cocoa bug "*Sahlbergella*" and cocoa mosquito "*Helopeltis*" are "widely distributed and are responsible for the destruction of a large number "of trees and the loss of a fair portion of the crop.

"Isolated cases of both brown and white root disease "*Hymenochaete*" "and "*Rosellinia*" were found on many of the farms, but the loss of trees "through these pests cannot at present be considered serious. White thread "fungus "*Marasmius*" is rapidly increasing and was reported as doing con- "siderable damage on many farms. Little or no attention is paid to control the "pest and although agricultural officers have taken owners to farms and "pointed out the damage and treated a few trees here and there, it is very "exceptional to find that the farmers have continued the control measures. "At the present time only a few trees in each farm are affected, but several "instances came under notice where groups of 50 or more trees were seriously "damaged.

"The trees on the whole gave excellent yields, but owing to the difficulty "in drying, due to the late rains, a portion of the earlier crop was allowed to "remain on the trees and got much overripe before being gathered. The low "price also discouraged the farmers, a number of whom left the pods on the "trees until the beans germinated. Others gathered their crops and held "them up in the hopes of higher prices, but, through lack of suitable storing "accommodation and being improperly dried, a quantity was spoiled by "mould. The quality generally was a great improvement on the previous "year, due to improved methods employed in fermenting the beans.

"Farmers were a little discouraged at the fall in price and in some districts, "noticeably in the Western Province, the amount offered per load would not "cover the cost of transport, so that a large percentage of the crop in this "district is being held up. The low price had a great effect in restricting "extensions but no apparent neglect was noticeable on existing farms.

"The only other important agricultural item was the opening of the "agricultural sub-station at Juaso in the Ashanti Akim district. This should "prove of great value to the surrounding farmers as Juaso is situated in "the principal cocoa centre of Ashanti.

"On the Coomassie agricultural station there was a great increase in "the yields of all varieties of cocoa and the pods were generally larger, working "out at 12·91 pods per lb against 14·21 during the previous year. Insect and "fungoid pests were less severe, and this was general throughout the cocoa "areas in Ashanti.

"Experiments in the fermentation of cocoa and the tapping of *Para* "rubber trees were continued. The cocoa prepared in the gardens and "sold locally realized 3/- per load above ordinary native-prepared cocoa."

(24) *Rubber.*—654 tons were exported, valued at £36,732, as against 317 tons, valued at £20,135. This large increase is encouraging and although the quality of the rubber is poor, it again represents a considerable asset to the country.

(25) *Kola.*—The kola crop was not so prolific as in 1915, the yield amounting to (roughly) four-fifths of the preceding year. This in no way means deterioration of trees—the normal state of affairs ordaining that crops vary annually and reach a maximum yield every third year.

(26) *Shea Butter.*—This product is used almost entirely for local consumption—the cost of transport being too high to enable it to rank as an article of export. There was a decided increase in the import of the fat from the Northern Territories into Ashanti in 1916 as against 1915.

(27) *The Government Agricultural Station Coomassie.*—Distributed thousands of plants and seeds free of charge. All plots under cultivation were well maintained and fermentation experiments continued and tabulated.

Rainfall registered was 61·21 inches against 57·71 in 1915.

(28) There are two European agricultural companies in the Southern Province, viz :—

The Ofin River Plantation Limited and the Abomposu Estate.

With reference to the former, the manager reports as follows :—

"The *Para* rubber trees have done well and put on a lot of new growth, "mainly on account of the large and well distributed rainfall in 1916. "Methodical weeding and thorough plant sanitation have of course "assisted much.

"Difficulties in getting supplies from manufacturers and in shipping "delayed us in starting the tapping in 1916 as we should have done.

"The cocoa trees cropped very heavily this last season, although the beans "were smaller in size than usual, which was general throughout this district. "The crop was well fermented, but I have no advice as yet of the price "obtained.

"A complete hand power coffee plant has been installed and our maiden "crop of the *Java robusta* was successfully treated thereby. Messrs. "F. & A. Swanzy bought all and are selling it at Tarquah to the Europeans "there with the idea of replacing the usual tinned article by local produce. "1916 was a bad year for locusts, which seem each year to get worse. They "cause much damage to the foliage of the *Para* and coffee."

The latter plantation was under cultivation the whole year and a satisfactory crop of cocoa was obtained. This was shipped direct to Europe by the company owning the estate.

The mining rights on these concessions were abandoned during the year.

INDUSTRIES.

(29) *Mines.*—The amount of gold produced during the year was 115,704.21 ounces, valued at £491,511 9s. 9d., as compared with 111,608.64 ounces, valued at £474,240 15s. 9d. in 1915.

The following companies produced gold during the year :—

(*a*) *Mining.*

	Fine Ounces.	Value.
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation Limited ..	112,367·86	£477,338 11 9

(*b*) *Dredging.*

		Fine Ounces.	Value.
Ofin River Gold Estates Limited	..	3,336·35	£14,172 18 0
Total	..	115,704·21	£491,511 9 9

The average amount of labour employed daily by mining and dredging companies in Ashanti was :—

	Surface.	Under-ground.	Total.
Europeans	62	38	100
Natives	2,254	1,308	3,562
	2,316	1,346	3,662

The following concessions were abandoned during the year :—

Abomposu Enquiry No. 129 (Ashanti)
Bankokosu „ „ 130 („)
Akyeso „ „ 131 („)

MANUFACTURES.

(30) Strictly speaking, there are no manufactures for export, but weaving, basket making, pottery and goldsmith work are common and generally appreciated outside as well as within the Dependency.

Fisheries.

(31) Large quantities of small fish are caught in lake Busomtwi (otherwise known as the sacred lake). Dried and smoked, they are freely distributed over all the neighbouring districts. Natives adjoining rivers live largely on a fish diet; otherwise there are no fisheries in Ashanti.

LEGISLATION.

Rules.—1916.

The following Rules, Orders, etc., were made and put in force during the year 1916 :—

1. Order by the Governor re place of registration of Certificate of Naturalization and Declaration of Nationality. (*Gazette* No. 13 of 1916, page 256).

2. Appointment of Licensing Officer made under section 4 of the Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1915. (*Gazette* No. 13 of 1916, page 269).

3. Declaration of the ferry over the River Prah at Nsese in the Southern Province of Ashanti to be a public ferry within the meaning of the Ferries Ordinance, 1896, as applied to Ashanti (*Gazette* No. 18 of 1916, page 352).

4. Additions to the rules with respect to prisons in Ashanti published in the *Government Gazette* on the 24th of August, 1910 (*Gazette* No. 15 of 1917, page 218).

5. Rule under Section 24 of the Motor Traffic Ordinance re transfer of motor licences.

ORDINANCES.

Four ordinances were enacted during the year 1916, as follows :—

1. An Ordinance to apply to Ashanti the Ordinance of the Gold Coast Colony shortly entitled "The Trading with Enemy (Extension of powers) Ordinance, 1916."

2. An Ordinance further to amend "The Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902" by adding in their chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti.

The Probate Exemption Ordinance, 1916,
and The Spirit Licence Ordinance, 1911.

3. An Ordinance further to amend "The Ashanti Administration Ordinance 1902," by adding "The Gold Coast Reservists Ordinance, 1909," to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti.

4. An Ordinance further to amend "The Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902," by adding the following Ordinances to the list of the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti :—

The Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1912, and the Petroleum Ordinance, 1912.

EDUCATION.

Besides Mission schools, Government schools are established at Coomassie and Sunyani.

1. *Coomassie Government School. Boys.*—At the beginning of 1916 the roll was 390. This increased to 421 during the year. Average daily attendance 364.25.

Ashantis numbered 52.49% of the total attendance, the remainder being made up of Fantis, Accras, Akims, Kwahus and Hausas.

2. *Girls.*—On the roll at the beginning of the year, 80: at end of 1916, 109. Average daily attendance 81.22.

Ashantis numbered .. 51.37%
Fantis 32.11
Accras, Sierra Leonians, etc., making up the remainder.

3. The Government school at Sunyani continued to do excellent work. Out of a roll of 87 scholars, 68 were Ashantis.

In March the average daily attendance fell to 52, but representations to the chiefs resulted in an increased attendance during the latter half of the year.

The staff consisted of one 2nd class and two 3rd class teachers.

Mission Schools.

Church of England.

4. No separate school house has as yet been built. Part of the church building is used for the purpose.

The roll numbers 114 boys in the senior department and 78 infants.

The school was recommended for an increased Government grant by the Inspector of Schools.

Wesleyan.

5. Sixteen day schools with a roll of 848 children, an increase of 229 on 1915.

Basel.

6. Twenty-five schools scattered all over the Dependency with a roll of 1,081 children of whom 260 are Christian and 821 heathen.

Two new schools were opened during the year. Three schools received Government grants.

Roman Catholic.

7. Six schools with a total attendance of 400 children.

Zion.

8. Three schools with 122 scholars; three Sunday schools with 151 scholars.

9. Total number of Mission scholars of both sexes in Ashanti—2,643.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

The following is a list of hospitals in Ashanti :—

European General Hospital	Coomassie
Native General Hospital	,,
Contagious Diseases Hospital	,,
Native General Hospital	Sunyani
do. do.	Kintampo
Contagious Diseases Hospital	Obuasi

The native hospital in Coomassie, completed in 1915, is much appreciated by the native community, as evinced by a large increase of applications for medical treatment.

Savings Bank.

Savings banks are established at Coomassie and Obuasi.

Operations were as follows:—

	No. of Depositors.		Amount.	
	1915	1916	1915	1916
Coomassie	315	705	£3,551 9 4	£2,956 19 0
Obuasi	50	276	1,252 9 0	1,515 11 0
Total	365	981	£4,803 18 4	£4,472 10 0

Railway.

The railway imported 22,701 tons of public goods into Ashanti during the year and exported 19,199. The former figure shows an increase of 134 tons and the latter a decrease of 4,714 tons.

	1915	1916
Inwards	21,667	22,701
Outwards	23,913	19,199

Besides the above, 19,199 tons of goods were carried to and from Ashanti stations.

The passenger traffic amounted to 176,116 as against 236,977 in 1915, but the decrease was more than counterbalanced by increased fares, 1916 realizing £45,214 under this head as against £36,713 in 1915. 3,295 head of cattle and 979 sheep and goats were exported by railway during the year, while 1709 tons of spirits and 699 tons of dried fish were imported during the same period.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

1. The police force in Ashanti on December 31st, 1916 was 133 as against 126 on the 1st January, 1916, showing an increase of 7 men.

2. Total authorized strength for Ashanti in 1916 was 131, besides which there were 11 railway and 3 mines police stationed in the Dependency.

3. The number of cases prosecuted by the police in Coomassie was 774 as against 905 in 1915, a decrease of 131.

4. Prosecutions at Obuasi numbered 552 as against 610 in 1915, a decrease of 85 cases.

5. A good standard of efficiency was maintained, taking into consideration the small number of literates there are in the force.

6. The conduct and behaviour of the non-commissioned officers and men throughout the year was most satisfactory.

PRISONS.

1. *Coomassie*—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 415—this number includes females—as against 590 in 1915 and 327 in 1914.

2. Debtor prisoners numbered 138, viz., 106 males and 32 females. The number of untried prisoners was 118 males and 2 females.

3. The crimes committed were as follows:—

Murder	10
Manslaughter	5
Rape	3
Wounding	22
Robbery with Violence	4
Burglary	5
Assault	16
Larceny and other Offences	356
	421

4. Offences against prison discipline were generally of a minor character with the exception of only two cases in which flogging had to be resorted to.

5. Health of the prison was good. Admissions into prison infirmary numbered 55, all slight cases of illness, with the exception of two cases which resulted in death.

6. The prison books were well kept and entered up to date.

7. The expenditure was as follows:—

Permanent Warders	£861 7 9
Temporary Warders	168 17 3
Prisoners' Rations	382 8 10
Other Charges	28 12 9
Giving a total of	£1,441 6 7

8. The comparative earnings were £1,188 6s. 11d., while the actual sum earned was £297 9s. 5d., which was paid into the Government Chest.

9. The prisoners were employed generally on sanitary work, carpentry, laundry, basket making, etc., *vide* sum paid into the Chest.

10. 12 prisoners escaped during the year, and of these 3 were recaptured.

11. The number of prisoners transferred from Coomassie prison during the year was as follows:—

29 Long sentenced to Central Prison, Seccondee
6 Condemned also to Central Prison, Seccondee
17 Short sentenced to Fort Orange Prison, Seccondee
23 Short sentenced to Kintampo and Obuasi Prisons.

12. The prison was in charge of Senior Chief Warder J. N. Anthonio who acted as keeper of prison. There were also 1 first class, 8 second class, 5 third class warders and 1 matron.

13. There were two dismissals and one resignation during the year.

14. The prison was kept clean and in good order and discipline was well maintained.

15. *Obuasi.*—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 177.

16. The number of debtor prisoners admitted was 20 males. The number of untried prisoners was 97 males.

17. The crimes committed by the prisoners were as follows:—

Murder	Nil
Manslaughter	4
Rape	1
Wounding	13
Robbery with Violence	94
Assaulting	14
Larceny and other Offences	51

Offences against prison discipline were generally of a minor character.

The health of the prisoners was good.

The books were well kept and entered up to date.

18. Expenditure was as follows:—

Permanent Warders	£414	10	4
Temporary Warders	101	6	0
Prisoners' Rations	296	5	7
	£812	1	11

19. The comparative earnings were £457 11s. 6d., while the actual sum earned was £59 13s. 0d. which was paid into the Government Chest.

20. 2 prisoners escaped during the year, and of these one was recaptured.

21. The number of prisoners transferred from Obuasi prison during the year was as follows:—

31 Short sentenced to Coomassie Prison.

22. The prison was in charge of Chief Warder S. S. Voomawah from January to October, when he was transferred to Accra. The prison was then in charge of first class Warder R. V. Martin, who acted as keeper of prison to the end of the year. There were also 3 second class warders and 3 third class warders.

23. There were four dismissals and one resignation during the year.

24. The prison was kept clean and in good order, and discipline was well maintained.

25. *Sunyani.*—Total number admitted during the year 148. Daily average 14·7.

26. *Kintampo.*—Total number admitted 76. Daily average 10.

27. Small prisons were maintained at Wenchi, Goaso, Kratchi, Ejura and Juaso for short sentenced prisoners.

28. All prisoners were frequently visited and well cared for.

Criminal Cases.

1. The following table gives a list of the criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and indicates the manner in which they were dealt with.

Courts.	Cases heard.	Discharged.	Convicted.	Not proceeded with.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner's ..	62	12	50	—	—
District Commissioner Coomassie	164	63	89	—	12
Police Magistrate ..	2,205	84	2,112	—	9
District Commissioner Ejura	88	13	64	—	11
District Commissioner Juaso	169	41	118	—	
Commissioner Southern Province	1,040	124	905	—	11
Commissioner Western Province	122	26	93	—	3
District Commissioner Wenchi	205	47	156	—	2
District Commissioner Goaso	60	6	50	—	4
Commissioner Northern Province	143	29	106	—	8
District Commissioner British Kratchi ..	20	—	20	—	—
	4,278	445	3,763	—	70

A decrease of 218 cases on 1915.

N.B. Chief Commissioner's Court.—In some cases there was a batch of prisoners on the same charge tried together.

2. Serious crime was as follows :—

Murder	15
Attempt to Murder	9
Manslaughter	13
Rape	7
Robbery with Violence	21
Burglary	15
Causing Harm	50

Civil Cases, Etc.

3. 2,295 civil cases, distributed as follows, were disposed of during the year; an increase of 22 over last year:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	71
Commissioner, Southern Province ..	541
Commissioner, Western Province.. ..	194
Commissioner, Northern Province ..	61
Police Magistrate's Court	810
District Commissioner, Coomassie ..	172
Disrtict Commissioner, Juaso	164
District Commissioner, Ejura	137
District Commissioner, Goaso	53
District Commissioner, Wenchi	92
	2,295

4. The "Fees and Fines" of Court during the year amounted to £4,241 16s. 6d. distributed as follows:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	£620	1	3
Commissioner, Southern Province	957	19	8
Commissioner, Western Province	251	0	0
Commissioner, Northern Province	138	9	6
Police Magistrate's Court	1,204	9	9
District Commissioner, Coomassie	432	9	9
District Commissioner, Juaso	228	18	7
District Commissioner, Ejura	107	13	9
District Commissioner, Goaso	113	0	0
District Commissioner, Wenchi	187	14	3
	£4,241	16	6

5. An increase of £433 10s. 3d. over last year.

6. No Concession Court was held and no new concessions were filed during the year.

7. Three concessions were abandoned.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

1. The census of 1911 gave Ashanti a population of 287,814 made up as follows:—

Males	141,231	Adults	170,761
Females ..	146,583	Children	117,053
	287,814		287,814

The above figures were admittedly under-estimated and the population has largely increased since then.

2. The population of Coomassie is estimated at 24,000 made up as follows –

Ashantis	4,000
North Country people	12,000
Coast people..	4,000
Various	2,000
	22,000

3. The European population of Ashanti on the 31st December, 1916, was as follows :—

	Coomassie.	Obuasi.	Other parts.	Total.
Officials ..	29	6	6	41
Unofficials ..	76	160	0	236
	105	166	6	277

This does not include Syrians who numbered about 60.

Public Health.

1. The Provincial Medical Officer reports as follows :—

"The general health of both Europeans and natives during 1916 was good.
"There was a complete absence of epidemics of infectious diseases :—
"The most prevalent diseases were :—

Venereal diseases (in Coomassie especially among the soldiers and their wives).
Digestive System diseases
Bronchial ,,
Ulcers

"Among communicable diseases the most prevalent were malaria, gonorrhoea, dysentry, secondary syphilis and yaws. A very mild epidemic of varicella, which began in Coomassie towards the end of 1915, was continued in 1916. The onset of the cold and rainy season was, as usual, characterized by a sudden increase of pneumonia cases with a mortality of over 20%. There were two cases of sleeping sickness in hospital during the year with one death.

"The health of the civilian officials was good, but that of the officers and European non-commissioned officers of the Gold Coast Regiment was not so good as in former years.

2. This was due, as the Principal Medical Officer points out, to the Cameroons campaign.

3. Of a total number of 120 officials, 8 were invalided. No deaths occurred.

4. The general health of the native officials was good ; prevalent disease malaria. No deaths. No invalidings.

5. Among the European non-official population 12 were invalided, as against 4 in 1915. 3 invalided and 1 death due to haemoglobinuric fever (blackwater).

6. Registration of births and deaths exists, but is not compulsory.

Climate and Sanitation.

7. *Coomassie.*—Rainfall 72·12 inches as against 59·01 in 1915 and 76·46 in 1914.

8. *Kintampo.*—Rainfall 80·38 inches as against 67·88 in 1915 and 54·98 in 1914.

9. *Sunyani.*—Rainfall 57·44 inches as against 49·11 in 1915 and 43·50 in 1914.

Mean temperature 78·65.

10. The sanitation of the town of Coomassie was in charge of the Medical Officer of Health and was efficiently maintained.

Details will be found under "Coomassie Town."

11. *Obuasi.*—Remains in charge of a committee consisting of the Provincial Commissioner, Mines Manager, Medical Officer and others.

The committee disposes of funds collected from the residents of the mining village.

The sanitation of the village was well maintained. No permanent works of any importance except two much needed destructors were attempted, the policy of the committee being to preserve all available funds to complete the drainage scheme.

Revenue £5,299 8s. 8d. Expenditure £3,176 16s. 2d.

12. The sanitary condition of Sunyani, Wenchi and Goaso in the Western Province may be described as fairly good. Sunyani village was laid out and much improved. The laying out of the Zongo was in progress at the end of the year. The Ashanti village at Wenchi is in course of reconstruction on a new site and when finished will be a fitting complement to the unique Zongo at that place.

The rebuilding of Goaso was completed.

13. Throughout Ashanti a laudable eagerness for village improvements is evinced. Applications for inspectors are innumerable and nearly every village has undergone or is undergoing radical changes.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

1. Services—Daily between Coomassie, Obuasi and the Coast; weekly to all up-country stations.

2. The following is a statement of mail matter dealt with in Ashanti during 1916:—

	Forwarded.	Received.	Totals.
Letters and Post Cards	683,036	514,046	1,197,082
Book Packets	63,180	105,192	168,372
Registered Articles	28,200	20,436	48,636
	774,416	639,674	1,414,090

3. The following is a statement of telegraphic messages and amounts collected in Ashanti during the year :—

	No. of Messages forwarded.	Amount.
Inland messages	3,866 ..	£879 8 5
Cablegrams	978 ..	64 3 9
Messages to Ivory Coast	55	7 10 6
Messages to Togoland	92 ..	20 5 6
	4,991 ..	£971 8 2

	Received.	Amount.
Cablegrams	1,008 ..	£70 13 11
Messages from Ivory Coast	45 ..	5 12 1½
Messages from Togoland	100	22 7 6
Messages, Ashanti	5,860 ..	—
	7,013 ..	£98 13 6½

4. Parcel post statistics were as follows :—

Station.	Ordinary.	Insured.	Total.	Amount.
Obuasi	3,258	56	3,314	£131 2 0
Coomassie	10,373	250	10,623	406 13 8
	13,631	306	13,937	£537 15 8

5. Departmental statistics for Ashanti in 1916 were as follows :—

Sale of Stamps	£10,669 11 5
Registered Envelopes	25 17 1
Cards	1 9 11
Savings Bank Deposits .. .	4,857 6 0
,, ,, Withdrawals ..	4,581 19 6
Money Orders	16,335 19 5
Commission	103 7 2
Total	£36,575 10 6

RELIGION.

1. The Wesleyans, Roman Catholics, Church of England, Basel Mission, Zionists, and Seven Days Adventists maintain missions in Ashanti.

2. *The Wesleyan Mission.*—Consisted of :—

1 European Missionary
1 Native Ordained Minister
14 Catechists
15 Day School Teachers
1,319 Baptised Christian Community.

2. *The Roman Catholic Mission.*—Consisted of :—

2 European Priests
5 Catechists
14 Teachers
1,200 Converts.

4. *The Church of England.*—Consisted of :—

2 European Priests
6 Day School Teachers
4 Catechists
and 259 Members.

St. Cyprians Church, Coomassie, has now completed the third year of its existence and its officially enrolled members number 77 adult natives (of whom 20 are female) and 46 children. In addition there are about 36 hearers and catechumens.

On August 6th the Bishop of Accra confirmed 40 persons and in the course of the year there have been 84 baptisms (four of infants), the large majority being adult males some of whom are resident at Obuasi or at Jakye or some other outlying village.

At Jakye and at Obuasi the Mission has Churches ministered to by native catechists with an occasional visit from the European priest. At Jakye there are 40 baptised Church people and at Obuasi about 60.

At Coomassie the work of the Church is considerably reinforced by the existence of the church school which begins 1917 with a roll of 114 boys in the senior department and 78 infants.

5. *The Basel Mission.*—Consisted of :—

3 European Missionaries
2 Native Ministers
23 Catechists, Teachers and Assistant Teachers.

The Mission numbers 22 outstations, besides Coomassie.

The work was carried out on the same lines as usual and shows a slow but steady progress. Of all the 23 stations in Ashanti under the supervision of Coomassie 7 showed a small decrease and the others an increase of 163. Total increase of adherents for the year 122.

The number of communicants which was 519 in 1915 increased to 567 in 1916, while the total number of Church members is 1,004 and the number of probationers 149.

To the above figures must be added 995 Church members in Ashanti Akim, an increase of 22 in the year.

6. *The Zionist Mission.*—Consisted of :—

A Pastor in charge
11 Local Teachers
4 Teachers
and 234 Members

The Mission possesses four churches in Ashanti.

7. No trouble of any kind occurred between Christians and heathens during the year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

1. The Public Works Department was in charge of the roads from Coomassie to Ejura and Effiduasi, which were kept in excellent repair.

2. £300 was spent on the improvement of the Coomassie-Ofinsu road and £1,500 on the Coomassie-Juaso road, both being rendered fit for light motor traffic. Large bridges were built over the Anum and Ofin Rivers.

Central Province.

3. Several hundred miles of made and ditched roads were maintained during the year and 19 were under construction.

Regular motor traffic was employed on 136 miles of road, *i.e.* Coomassie—Ejura 61 miles with branch road to Effiduasi 10 miles ; Coomassie—Juaso 43 miles ; Coomassie—Ofinsu 22 miles.

Western Province.

4. 72 miles of district roads were constructed or improved during the year. Particularly good work was performed in the Wenchi district to join up Wenchi with the boundary of the Central Province. Except for the bridges this portion is already fit for light motor traffic.

Southern Province.

5. Great activity in road building was displayed during the year.

The Commissioner reports as follows :—

" A very large amount of earth work was done, and long tracts of road " were made suitable for light motor traffic, with the exception of the bridges " and culverts, which were left until funds were available to build them. The " work of the overseers has been most creditable. In many cases, they have " aligned roads in a way that an engineer would not be ashamed of. It is " not until the bridges and culverts are constructed, and the roads come into " use, that the amount of work that has been done during the year will be " really appreciated. At present it makes no show.

" Details of the various roads are as follows :—

" (*a*) Bekwai to Pekki, 14 miles.

" Bekwai to Manso Nkwanta, about 27 miles.

"These two roads both branch out to the West from Bekwai and cross "the Adra river close to that town. It was thought best to combine them "into one road until the river was crossed, thus necessitating only one bridge. "A good route was found and the road now leaves Bekwai and runs round "the station to Dengiasi, thence to Abenkyem and the river, where an excel- "lent place to put a bridge has been found. It will consist of 3 twenty-foot "spans over the water, and a causeway to approach it. Once over the river "the road splits, one portion going North to Senfi, Pekki and ultimately "Coomassie, the other west to Panu, Mbiem and Manso Nkwanta.

"(*b*) Bekwai to Amoaful, Esumeja, Kokofu, Esease, Ahuri, Abodom and "Amoaful, 18 miles.

"A circular road which taps the rich cocoa district round the lake."

"Bekwai to Amoaful—Amoaful's half of this road has been finished. "Bekwai's half is under construction, and will need engineering assistance.

"In all the above cases, the earth work is meant; no bridges or culverts "were put up in 1916 on this road.

"(*c*) Bekwai to Lake Bosumtwi, 12 miles. This road leaves No. 2 at "Kokofu. It is a fair cycle road. No work beyond cleaning was done in 1916.

"(*d*) From Abodom to Jadamwa *via* Nsuaem, 20 miles. Progress was "made in the earth work. Many sections are completed as far as the earth "work is concerned.

"(*e*) Akrokerri to Jacobu, $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The earth work practically com- "pleted. This road only waits the bridges to form a fine motor road.'

"(*f*) Jacobu to Manso Nkwanta, 22 miles. Completed as to earth work in "parts.

"(*g*) Akrokerri to Fomenah, 10 miles. This road was re-made during the "year by the Omanhin of Adansi. He advanced £300 for the purchase of "tools and timbers, and by the end of the year the road was ready for traffic "except for bridges, and for those the timbers had been cut. Work to the "value of well over £1,000 was given freely and immense cuttings and fillings "were undertaken. It looks as if this road will become of great importance. "It is capable of indefinite extension from Dompoase northwards towards "Bekwai and eastwards to Akim.

"(*h*) Obuasi to the Prah, *via* Bojesango and Banka, 45 miles. This "road was well maintained but no work was done on it to render it fit for "motor traffic."

Railway.

1. The railway runs in Ashanti from the Ofin River to Coomassie, a distance of $67\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

2. The passenger traffic amounted to 25,811 inward and 25,190 outward besides 125,115, carried up and down in Ashanti.

3. 22,701 tons were imported into Ashanti and 19,199 tons exported during the year. Up and down traffic in Ashanti amounted to 19,199 tons.

4. 3,295 cattle and 979 sheep and goats were exported by railway in the year.

5. 699 tons of fish and 1,709 tons of wine, beer and spirits were imported in 1916.

6. The main articles of export were cocoa 14,772 tons; rubber 654 tons; kola nuts 1,630 tons, 261 tons of hides and skins and 197 tons of maize.

TRANSPORT.

1. The following table gives the particulars of work performed by the Department during the year:—

	1915	1916
2. Loads despatched by Railway	1,786	305
Loads delivered in Coomassie..	1,748	2,606
Loads despatched to Northern Territories (carriers) direct	380	2,628
Loads to Ejura by Motor	4,464	3,613
Loads moved belonging to Officers arriving and departing	3,000	1,792
Carriers with Officers in Ashanti (including with troops)	648	906
Passengers to Ejura by Motor	317	425
Mails moved to and from Railway Station (bags and baskets)	5,092	4,681
Carriers sent out with bags of mails	144	126
Bags of Mails by Motor to Ejura	820	895
Carriers engaged on contract for War ..	1,441	49
Carriers engaged for local purposes	—	430

EJURA STATION.

	1915	1916
3. *Up Traffic to Yeji etc.*		
Loads by Carriers	3,034	3,021
Carriers with Officers	599	859
Carriers with mails	755	650
Down Traffic to Coomassie.		
Loads by Motor	959	459
Passengers by Motor	384	767
Passengers personal baggage	—	684
Mails	225	344

VETERINARY.

1. In the absence of the Veterinary Officer the Medical Department supervised the work.

2. The inspection of cattle, sheep and goats arriving at Coomassie and leaving by rail was carried out as usual.

3. Dr. O'Dea reports a large increase in the number of cattle imported into Ashanti in 1916 compared with 1915. This increase took place notwithstanding the existence, throughout the greater part of the year, of epizootic disease, with varying rates of mortality, among the herds passing through the Northern Territories.

4. Cattle imported in 1916, 14,799 as against 9,802 in 1915.

5. The number of cattle presented for inspection was 14,799 of which 6 were seized for fatigue, emaciation and advanced trypanosomiasis.

6. The number of cattle inspected and passed for exportation by railway was 3,297, an increase of 348 on the number exported for 1915.

7. The number of cattle inspected and passed for exportation by road was 1,570, an increase of 1,403 on the number for the previous year.

8. Four head of cattle were rejected for exportation.

9. *Sheep and Goats*—555 sheep and 103 goats were passed for exportation by railway during 1916.

10. 1,011 sheep and 142 goats were passed for exportation by road. 1 sheep and 4 goats were rejected for exportation.

11. *Anthrax*—Early in 1916 the Medical Officer, Salaga, reported the existence of anthrax among the cattle, sheep and goats passing through the centre of their way to Ashanti. There were 22 deaths among cattle at Salaga due to this disease, from February to June 1916. In November 1916 there were 2 deaths among the Government herd at Coomassie due to anthrax.

12. *Rinderpest*—At various times during the year 1916 reports reached Coomassie of numerous deaths having occurred among herds of cattle *en route* from the French dominions through the Northern Territories to the Coast. These deaths were due to rinderpest or some allied epizootic. No cases were discovered at Coomassie.

13. *Inspection of Coomassie Town*—During the year 85 dogs were seized for mange and 20 were killed.

14. 2,842 sheep were inspected. Out of these 117 were seized for scab; six were killed.

15. 851 goats were inspected, 11 seized for scab and three killed.

16. 60 donkeys inspected. Three died in detention from trypanosomiasis.

17. Six cattle were seized. Four died in detention. Two were killed.

18. *Live Stock Farm, Coomassie.* During the year, five acres were cleared and stumped. The farm now consists of 14 acres suitable for grazing purposes.

At the end of the year, the herd consisted of four cows, three heifers and three calves.

COOMASSIE TOWN.

1. The following table shows the revenue collected during the year.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	Increase or decrease as compared with 1915.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rent of Town Plots ...	2,035	2,159 0 0	2,526 3 5	2,861 9 8	335 6 3
Rent of Zongo Plots ...	736	757 0 0	764 6 0	797 3 6	32 17 6
Market Rents	197	304 15 0	301 3 0	299 16 0	1 7 0
Slaughter House fees ...	815	837 14 0	651 2 0	695 0 0	42 18 0
Spirit Licenses	1,680	1,810 0 0	2,060 0 0	2,100 0 0	40 0 0
Beer Licenses	4	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	—
Dog Licenses	15	13 0 0	30 0 0	28 2 6	1 17 6
Kraal fees	—	—	—	369 19 6	369 19 6
TOTAL ... £	5,482	5,885 9 0	6,336 14 5	7,155 11 2	454 6 3

The increase in the amount of town rents is due to fresh leases being granted.

New leases granted in 1916 .. .. 25.
New Zongo plots granted in 1916 .. .. .. 7.
Leases cancelled .. .. 22.
Zongo plots cancelled .. .. 3.

2. There were 2025 criminal cases heard during 1916 as compared with 2,388 in 1915, the greater number of these being sanitary offences.

810 Civil Cases were heard.
Writs of Casa .. 218.
Writs of Fi Fa .. 21.

3. Fines and fees amounted to £624. 11s. 9d. and £579. 18s. 0d. respectively.

4. Police of all ranks numbered 73 on the 1st January 1916 and the same at the close of the year.

Government School.

5. The number of boy scholars at the commencement of the year was 390 and at the end of the year 421. Average daily attendance 364.25.

6. The number of the girl pupils at commencement of year was 80; at close of year 109. Average daily attendance 81.22.

Other Schools in Coomassie :—

1. Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.
2. Roman Catholic Mission.
3. Wesleyan Mission.
4. The Zion Mission.
5. The Basel Mission.

7. The population of the town is estimated at 24,000, 12,000 of which are North Country people.

Resident Europeans	112
European Officials	29
European Non-officials	83

The Syrians, the majority of whom come from Mount Lebanon, numbered 55.

8. The sanitary condition of the town was well maintained, but cannot be perfected until the contemplated drainage scheme has been carried out.

9. The expenditure on sanitary improvement was £1,497. 17s. 4d.
The works carried out during the year were:—

1. Concreting the West Subin.
2. Construction of Town Drains.
3. Bridge over Subin on Cape Coast Road.
4. Miscellaneous work.

10. The Town Surveyor completed a survey of Bantama, demarcating all new plots and streets.

11. Price of foodstuffs varied very little during the year.

12. The market place is now too small and too old for requirements.

13. The whole of the Sanitary Improvements Vote (£1,500) was expended. The West Subin is now culverted from the Cape Coast road to a point beyond the rifle butts, a distance nearly one mile.

14. The following is a list of principal works completed :—

1. Concreting West Subin.
2. Construction of Town Drains.
3. New Bridge—Cape Coast Road.
4. Completion of Well at Zongo.

15. The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Cattle	3,917
Sheep	1,068
Goats	3,142
Pigs	92
Amount of Slaughter House Fees	£695 0s. 0d.

Obuasi Town.

1. The sanitation of Obuasi and the surrounding mining villages is entrusted to a sanitary committee which administers the funds contributed by the residents.

2. Revenue of the town was £5,299 8s. 8d. and expenditure £3,176 16s. 2d., leaving a surplus of over £2,000 which was earmarked for the continuation of the drainage scheme.

3. The sanitation of the village was well maintained. No permanent works of any importance except two much needed destructors were attempted, the policy of the committee being to preserve all available funds for the completion of the drainage scheme.

4. The rainfall for the year was 72.12 as against 59.01 in 1915 and 76.46 in 1914.

Public Works.

1. The expenditure for the year :—

	P. W. Extraordinary.	P. W. Annually Recurrent.	Total.
Coomassie..	£3,671 3 6	£10,966 5 9	£14,637 9 3
Kintampo..	438 14 0	242 5 5	680 19 5
	£4,109 17 6	£11,208 11 2	£15,318 8 8

The above figures represent a decrease in expenditure of £8,143 19s. 7d. as compared with the 1915 amounts.

2. The whole programme of work provided for in the Public Works Extraordinary Estimates for 1916 was completed with the exception of items 75 and 79 which were not commenced.

3. At Kintampo the hospital and market were burnt down and new buildings roofed with corrugated iron sheets have been erected.

4. Other principal works not included in the Estimates but carried out by Special Warrant were as follows :—

Improvement of Coomassie-Ofinsu Road ..	£300
Improvement of Goaso Road	1,500
Completion of Type " C " Bungalow ..	400

In the case of the first two items, the old roads were so far improved as to allow of motor traffic over them.

5. The third item completes the six new bungalows on the reservation area for the officers of the Gold Coast Regiment.

6. The whole of the Sanitary Improvements Vote (£1,500) was spent. Usual repairs were carried out to Government buildings and several minor works under Public Works Annually Recurrent were effected.

Native Affairs.

Central Province.

The important Stool of Mampon was rendered vacant by the death of Akwasi Sechere, whereupon the Chief of Bantama, Osei Mampon, was unanimously elected thereto.

Yao Berku followed Osei Mampon on the Stool of Bantama.

Chief Kwatchi Kofi, the Akomuhene, was destooled by the unanimous wish of his subjects and succeeded by Akonwa.

The Omanhene of Ejisu, Kweku Derkyi, was destooled on account of his general incapacity and weak, indolent nature. He was succeeded by Kweku Diko, a grandson of Ya Asantiwa.

Chief Kwamin Entwi of Kuntunase resigned his stool on account of leprosy.

Chief Kobina Kain of Bowere (Ejisu) committed suicide and the Chiefs Busori and Jamasi (Mampon) died.

The most important matter connected with native affairs was the destoolment of Kwamin Afram, Omanhene of Kumawu. He had become tyrannical and harsh in his conduct towards his subjects and the only solution of the difficulty was destoolment. He was succeeded by Kweku Boaten of Coomassie, a shrewd and able native.

Southern Province.

Omanhene Yao Boachi of Bekwai died in April. His term of office was distinguished by friendliness to the Government. He was succeeded by his nephew Osei Essibey.

Boundary troubles were numerous, the more important being those between Pekki and Tadeh, Nkawe and Manso Nkwanta, Esumeja and Ofuasi and Adansi and Kokofu.

Western Province.

The Tekimentia—Ofinsu boundary formed the subject of investigation.

The Bechims showed more energy and are at present in a satisfactory financial condition.

A dispute arose between Wam and Nkwanta and some preliminary work was done with regard to the demarcating of the land in dispute.

The Omanhene of Ahafo committed suicide in November. He had been an invalid for some time. There was no disturbance over his successor, Kobina Abase, who was elected without opposition.

The Akwaboa stool was taken from Mim to Coomassie in July by private agreement. It had been in Mim since 1900. The people refuse to follow the stool.

Northern Province.

Nothing of moment is to be recorded for the Northern Province. Innumerable boundary disputes were settled and demarcated by commissioners during the year.

General.

The relations between chiefs and Government continued to be most cordial. The loyalty and trust of the Ashantis generally are causes for sincere congratulation.

WAGES.

1. 1/- per day and 3d. subsistence is the standard rate for unskilled labour.
2. This largely consists now of Northern Territories men, who come down in constantly increasing numbers year by year.
3. Skilled labour is scarce, and highly paid,

PROSPECTS OF FUTURE TRADE.

The unfortunate drop in the price of cocoa has disheartened many a native and trade must suffer in consequence. How far this will be felt depends entirely on the resiliency of the cocoa market.

Ashanti is assured of a large kola trade of the minimum value of £150,000 a year.

SUITABILITY FOR EUROPEANS.

The climate of Ashanti is not suited for permanent European settlement. The average stay in the country is twelve months, after which recuperation in a more bracing climate is desirable.

The European community consists exclusively of officials, merchants, bankers, miners and missionaries.

F. C. FULLER.

Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

COLONIAL REPORTS &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonia Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1915–1916
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 962.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 949.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1918.

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No. 962.

ASHANTI.

JV33 G7A4

(For Report for 1916 see No. 919)

REPORT FOR 1917.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue and expenditure for Ashanti for the last three years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915	52,644	105,804
1916	44,824	91,751
1917	51,868	81,263

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £1,024,250, as compared with £1,140,750 in 1916 and £919,900 in 1915.

The total is made up as follows:—

Merchandise imported by railway ..	£406,000
Cattle	463,500
Sheep and goats	86,250
Horses	4,000
Dawa-dawa	27,000
Shea butter	22,500
Miscellaneous	15,000
	£1,024,250

Goods of all classes imported by the railway amounted to a tonnage of 17,663, as against 22,701 in 1916 and 21,667 in 1915.

The cattle trade is greatly on the increase—presumably because this is the only means whereby French subjects in the Moshi and other adjoining countries can raise money. Roughly speaking 103,000 head entered Ashanti during the year, as against 77,656 in 1916 and 39,200 in 1915. The average price in Coomassie for 1917 was £9, but half that sum represents a fair import value, or say £463,500—a large increase on 1916, for which year the estimated import value was £350,000.

An increase in the number of sheep and goats imported from the north is again to be recorded—115,000, as against 100,000 in 1916. Average price in Coomassie throughout the country, 15*s.* representing an import value of £86,250.

Exports.

Gold	£494,706	Cattle and sheep ..	£80,000
Cocoa	487,200	Hides	22,000
Kola	206,000	Snails	20,000
Rubber	64,000	Miscellaneous ..	5,000

Total, £1,378,706, as compared with £1,337,011 for 1916.

(C483) Wt.11/42. 1,000 &c. 1/18. D. & L. Gp.1/2.

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Cocoa.—20,137 tons were exported during the year—an increase of 5,365 tons on 1916 and the highest export yet recorded, in spite of the War. Prices averaged round about 9*s.* a load for the year—total value including charges is estimated at £487,200.

Kola.—2,700 tons were exported by railway, as against 1,630 in 1916, estimated at £50 a ton; this gives a value of £135,000, to which must be added the value of the nuts transported on men's heads.

Rubber.—1,149 tons of rubber were exported during the year, as against 654 tons in 1916. This represents a value of £64,000, as compared with £36,700 for the previous year.

AGRICULTURE.

In spite of poor prices the export of cocoa during 1917 proved a record—20,137 tons, against 14,772 in 1916 and 17,939 in 1915.

The Travelling Instructor reports as follows:—

"*Cocoa*:—The systematic visitation of villages was continued throughout the year, several visits being made to all important centres. This was necessary in order to keep up the farmers interest in cocoa cultivation, as, owing to the low price of the cured beans, there was a tendency on the part of owners to abandon their farms. On the whole, farms received less attention than in former years, and a number received no attention whatever, even the pods being allowed to remain and rot on the trees. Lectures and demonstrations were conducted at nearly all villages throughout the cocoa area, but in many instances chiefs and farmers attended the meetings more as matter of duty than with the idea of gaining knowledge about the management of their farms.

"Little or no extension was made of the area under cultivation; farmers contenting themselves with looking after the healthy portions of their existing farms, and abandoning the areas where diseases were prevalent. The dangers of the neglected areas were frequently brought to the owners' notice but all complained they were unable to keep them in order owing to the low price of cocoa, and of their not having sufficient capital to employ the necessary labour. Farms established on suitable soil do not appear to have suffered to any extent through these adverse conditions, but the farms on light sandy soils have been seriously affected and insect pests have caused considerable destruction to the trees. The two major pests of cocoa *Sahlbergella* and *Helopeltis* were again much in evidence and caused considerable damage to the trees and fruits, ruining many farms throughout the cocoa area. The multiplication of these pests was encouraged by the neglected condition of many of the farms, due to the low price of the cured beans. Until the farms are kept in a more sanitary condition there is little prospect of these pests being kept under control. The big bug *Homococerus* is widely distributed, and is responsible for the distorted appearance of a small percentage of the pods on many farms, but the damage done by this pest is infinitesimal in comparison with *Sahlbergella* and *Helopeltis*.

"White thread fungus *Marasmius* is widely distributed throughout the cocoa area, but it does not appear to be more prevalent than in the previous year, this is particularly striking in view of the very favourable climatic conditions for its development. Here and there affected branches are lopped off, but no case has come under

R.V.S. 7/15/21 S.L.

observation in which a tree has been entirely killed. The pest affects the smaller branches and spreads downward to the trunk, but no case has been noticed of the fungi starting at the base and spreading up the trunk to the branches.

"Brown rot disease.—A small percentage of the pods throughout the various farms are affected by this pest, but it is remarkable it is not more prevalent in view of the fact that pods are allowed to remain on the trees until much over-ripe and some are allowed to rot on the trees without being gathered.

"Isolated cases of both white and brown root disease *Hymenochaete* and *Fomes* were reported from numerous villages, but these pests do not appear to have increased to any extent; only a few trees here and there being affected and these are usually dug out and destroyed by the Instructors.

"The quality generally was superior to any yet produced in Ashanti, the bulk of the crop received some fermentation, but a percentage was ruined through allowing the pods to get much over-ripe before being gathered and to the method adopted by farmers of gathering the crop and allowing the pods to remain on the ground for two or three weeks before being put to ferment. By these means a percentage of the beans germinate whilst lying on the ground, and unless very carefully attended whilst fermenting, the beans turn black, have an ammoniacal smell, and a large percentage develop mould inside. Beans so prepared have in many cases been rejected by the mercantile firms, but a quantity is disposed of by mixing small lots with a better grade."

"*Kola Nuts.*—More interest was paid to this crop owing to the low cocoa market. In several instances Kola plots have been improved by the removal of forest trees. The trees generally appear to be free of insect pests, but many are affected by thread fungus *Marasmius* but it does not appear to cause any serious damage, and no attempt is made to remove affected branches.

"All fruits are readily disposed of on the farm at 7*s.* 6*d.* per 1,000 nuts."

"*Rubber.*—1,149 tons were exported as against 654 in 1916.

"No extension has been made of the area under this crop. There are a number of para trees scattered throughout the Provinces which have now reached the producing stage, but no attempt has yet been made to collect the latex.

"Considerable progress was made in improving the grade of native rubber, *Funtumia.* Several tons prepared in sheet and biscuit forms were offered for sale and realized higher prices than ordinary Gold Coast lump. Some of the lots offered were well prepared but were disposed of before being dried.

"*Minor Products.*—Efforts were made to establish a Piassava and African bast industry but without success. A small nursery was prepared at Antoa for the Chief and planted with 300 coconut seeds.

"Several hundred acres are under cultivation with rice in the Ejura district and small quantities are grown in the open country in the Western Province. The crop in the Ejura district is in great demand by the rice eating natives and effort was made to get farmers to increase the area under cultivation with this cereal."

LEGISLATION.

No legislation of general interest or importance was enacted during the year.

EDUCATION.

Government Schools are established at Coomassie and Sunyani.

Coomassie Government School.—The average number of scholars on the roll was 441. Average attendance 370, as against 364 in 1916. The increase took place in the infant and standard classes.

Ashantis numbered 58·1 and Fantis 21·3 per cent. of the total attendance.

Girls.—The number on the roll at the beginning of the year was 109 and at the end, 92. Average attendance, 81·4.

Government School, Sunyani.—The principal teacher reports as follows:—

"The school was re-opened after the Christmas vacation on the 16th January, with 87 scholars on the roll. During the year the school met 420 times; 21 more scholars were admitted and 17 left. The average number on the roll was 92·3.

"The daily attendance was good; the average being 80·5 and the percentage, 87·3.

"During the year satisfactory progress was made by the scholars and good work was done in the garden. The general discipline of the scholars was excellent."

Mission Schools.

Church of England.—The Coomassie roll numbered 250 pupils and 25 at Jachi, in the Coomassie districts.

Wesleyan.—Seventeen day schools with a roll of 845 children, as against 848 in 1916.

Basel.—Twenty-nine elementary schools with 1,190 pupils, of whom 348 are Christians and 842 heathen.

Two new schools were opened during the year—six received Government grants.

Roman Catholic.—Three schools with a roll of 180 pupils, a decrease of three schools and 220 children.

Seventh Day Adventists.—Six day schools with 126 pupils (boys only).

Zion.—Two day schools with 181 scholars.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisons.

Coomassie.—The total number of convict prisoners admitted during 1917 was 398, as against 415 in 1916, and 590 in 1915.

Obuasi.—Total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 213, against 177 in 1916.

Sunyani.—The total number of prisoners admitted was 292—daily average, 28.

Kintampo.—Total number admitted 79, discharged 78; daily average 14.

Ejura.—Number admitted during the year, 57; daily average, 9.

Juaso.—Sixty-one admissions; daily average 10·62.

Criminal Cases.

5,787 criminal cases were heard, and 5,246 convictions recorded, an increase of 1,509 over last year's due chiefly to the disposal of more sanitary cases.

Serious crime was as follows:—

Murder	5
Attempt at murder	3
Manslaughter	15
Rape and carnal knowledge	14
Robbery with violence	12

2,582 civil cases, were disposed of during the year; an increase of 287 over last year.

The "Fees and Fines" of court during the year amounted to £6,470 2*s.* 7*d.*, an increase of £2,228 6*s.* 1*d.* over last year's.

Wenchi and Goaso stations were closed down early in the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Census of 1911 gave Ashanti a population of 287,814, made up as follows:—

Males	141,231	Adults	170,761
Females	146,583	Children	117,053
	287,814		287,814

The above figures were admittedly under-estimated and the population has increased since then.

The population of Coomassie is estimated at 24,000, made up as follows:—

Ashantis	4,000
Coast People	4,000
North Country People (Hausas, Wangaras, Grunshis, Dagombas, Moshis, etc.)	14,000
Various	2,000
	24,000

The European population of Ashanti for 1917 was as follows:—

Officials	140
Non-Officials	242

The latter were divided up as follows:—

Merchants	100
Mining Industry	122
Missionaries	20
	242

Average number of officials resident, 60. Average number of non-officials, 120.

Syrian traders numbered 45 males, 22 females—total, 67.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Provincial Medical Officer reports as follows:—

"The general health of Europeans and Natives was not so good as last year. This may be attributable to lengthened tours and in part to many officers of the Regiment having been invalids before being sent out, but there are probably also different climatic conditions, as the health of native officials has also been markedly affected.

"*General European Population.* Exclusive of mining and missionary people, health has been fair. There were 11 invalidings among the merchants, some of these due to debility following long tours, who in normal times would have gone on leave ealier. There was one death.

"*General Native Population.*—The attendances at the Native Hospital, both in and out patients, were much the same as for previous years.

"There appears to be a steadily increasing tendency for the Ashanti and Hausa element to come for treatment. There was an outbreak of smallpox at Wenchi during the year which caused 29 deaths out of 164 cases—mortality, 17·6804.

"There was also an epidemic of influenza in Coomassie. Of other diseases the most common were malaria, pulmonary, and skin diseases."

Of a total number of 140 officials with an average of 60 residents, 4 died and 6 were invalided.

An increase of sickness among the native officials is to be recorded for 1917—with an average number resident of 164 and a total of 209, 45 were on the sick list, whereof 3 died. Prevalent cause of sickness was malaria.

Among the European non-official population 10 were invalided and 1 died of haemoglobinuric fever.

SANITATION.

The sanitation of the towns of Coomassie and Obuasi was efficiently maintained if not distinctly improved.

Western Province.—The laying out of the *Sunyani* Zongo with wide streets and rectuangular compounds was proceeded with and completed. Town planning was commenced at Berekum with marked success. The laying out of the Ashanti town at Wenchi on a new site, under a village overseer, was in progress and was nearly completed.

The sanitation of the Government stations at Kintampo, Ejura, and Juaso was well maintained.

It is satisfactory to record that a genuine wish for village improvements is noticeable among the Ashantis, especially in connection with streets, plotting out, and the building of better houses, over which they are beginning to take great pride.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ROADS.

Under the Supervision of or Constructed by the Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department was in charge of the main Trunk Road to Ejura and any extension thereof towards Yeji, besides the 10 miles of branch road to Efiduasi and the 36 miles of road between Ejura and Nkoranza.

Maintained and Constructed under the Supervision of Commissioners.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Coomassie District.—The following roads were maintained during the year :—

Coomassie Whiresu	20½ miles
Coomassie-Tappa	37 „
Coomassie-Kintampo (to boundary)	56 „
Coomassie-Sunyani (to boundary) ..	42 „
Coomassie-Wenchi (to boundary) ..	65 „
Coomassie-Kuntunase	17¼ „
	238 miles

The following roads were constructed and completed by the end of the year :—

Coomassie-Tredeh	9¼ miles
Coomassie-Nkawe	15 „
Aguna-Efiduasi	3 „
Efiduasi-Oyoko	1 „
	28¼ miles

The District Commissioner reports :—

" The Chiefs in this District are most anxious to construct roads and particularly desire roads suitable for motor traffic. Many chiefs are constructing excellent roads between their villages in the bush, which shows their keeness in the matter."

Ashanti-Akim District.—The maintenance and improvement of the the Juaso-Whiresu road, 23 miles (main road to Coomassie) proved heavy work owing to the high rainfall and the large amount of felling required to enable the road to dry. All other roads in the district were kept in a state of repair, and new roads built from Obogu to Nkwanta (3½ miles) and roads are being built between Domeabra and Juaso via Pecherache (11 miles).

Ejura District.—The following roads were rendered fit for motor traffic :—

Efiduasi-Asaman to boundary. The roads between Benim-Mampon, 3 miles, and Efiduasi-Nsuta, 11 miles are being constructed.

It is through this district that the main trunk road runs.

Southern Province.—The Acting Provincial Commissioner reports as follows :—

" A considerable mileage of roads was widened and improved for light motor traffic and much credit is due to the road overseers for the work they succeeded in getting done."

Western Province.—During the year 42·95 miles of ditched roads were constructed.

Northern Province.—Fifteen miles of the Ejura-Nkoranza road fall within this Province, the maintenance of which falls to Nkoranza.

Work was in progress between Nkoranza and Kintampo—35 miles—but was not completed.

RAILWAY.

The railway runs in Ashanti from the Ofin River to Coomassie, a distance of 67¼ miles.

The passenger traffic amounted to 24,559 inward and 131,467 outward, as against 25,811 and 25,190 in 1916 respectively, besides 103,261 carried up and down in Ashanti as against 125,115 in 1916.

17,663 tons of merchandise were imported into Ashanti and 26,507 tons exported, as against 25,701 and 19,199 tons respectively for the previous year.

The above figures do not include firewood carried between Ashanti stations, amounting to 25,360 tons.

VETERINARY.

The Medical Department supervises this work in the absence of the Veterinary Officer.

The Acting Veterinary Officer reports :—

"All cattle coming into Coomassie were inspected and of these 26 were detained as suffering from symptoms of epizootic diseases. Of these 4 died in detention and 22 were slaughtered, post mortem examinations being made in all cases. All were found to have definite pathological signs of cattle plague and the carcases were buried at selected sites. No case of cattle plague occurred in animals resident in Coomassie.

"*Rinderpest* appears to be still active both in the Northern Territories and French Country and to be spread by the owners taking infected cattle to places where they may be safe from inspection by a Government official, thus infecting new areas."

The number of cattle inspected and passed for exportation by railway was 3,975—an increase of 678 on the number exported in 1916.

The number of cattle inspected and passed for exportation by road was 293—a decrease of 1,277 on the number for the previous year.

Sheep and Goats.—821 sheep and 279 goats were passed for exportation by railway during 1917.

1,938 sheep and 267 goats were passed for exportation by road.

COOMASSIE TOWN.

The revenue collected during the year, £7,378, shows an increase of £222 over 1916, mainly in the amount of Town and Zongo rents due to the number of fresh leases granted.

There were 3,702 criminal cases heard during 1917 as compared with 2,025 in 1916, the greater number of these being sanitary offences.

There were 934 civil cases heard during 1917, as compared with 810 in 1916.

Government Schools.—The number of boy scholars at the commencement of the year was 421 ; at the end it had increased to 435. Average daily attendance for the year, 370·69.

The staff consisted of two second class teachers, nine third class teachers, and one technical instructor.

The number of the girl pupils at commencement of the year was 109 and was decreased to 92 at close of the year. The average daily attendance, 77·94.

The staff consisted of one second class teacher and two third class teachers.

Other schools in Coomassie.—Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Roman Catholic Mission, Wesleyan Mission, The Zion Mission, and The Basel Mission.

The population of the town is estimated at 24,000. Though the population certainly exceeds that number, the increase is mainly due

to the influx of natives from all parts of West Africa, foreign to Ashanti, who have gravitated to this large trade centre. The greater part of the population are North Country people.

Resident Europeans	260
European Officials	140
European Non-Officials	120

The Syrians, the majority of whom come from Mount Lebanon, numbered 67.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The relations between the Government and the Chiefs continued to be most satisfactory.

No breaches of the peace were committed by the Ashantis collectively.

Central Province.

Coomassie District.—Head Chief Akwesi Busumprah, of Coomassie, died and was succeeded by Kwamin Akoto.

The Omanhin of Ejisu, Kweku Diko, was confirmed in his appointment.

As it is proposed to have a station on the new Coomassie-Accra Railway at Ejisu, this work will be of great value and the interest taken by the Omanhin in the matter is highly commendable.

Ashanti-Akim District.—With the exception of slight internal friction in the Kumawa and Bompata Divisions, the district remained thoroughly peaceful and nothing of moment needs recording.

Ejura District.—The Mampons did good work on the Ejura-Prang road.

Nothing of note is to be recorded of the Nsuta and Atebubu Divisions.

Southern Province.

The Chief of Ankase was destooled at the instance of the Chief of Amoaful, who in turn, was destooled by his people.

The Pekki-Tredeh boundary was decided by the Chief Commissioner; feeling ran high in the matter but both parties restrained themselves and no breach of the peace occurred.

The Esumeja-Offuassi boundary was at last accepted by both parties after months of opposition and obstinacy on the part of Esumeja.

The Omanhin of Mansu-Nkwanta Kwesi Ankurah, was destooled by the wish of his people and Kwamin Pong, Chief of Edubia, was elected in his stead.

Western Province.

The Provincial Commissioner reports as follows:—

"Political conditions throughout were satisfactory and it is pleasant to record that loyal assistance was in every instance given by all classes of the community to the Government to improve the sanitary conditions of the villages and to create better means of communication.

"The request for recruits for East Africa, though not received with enthusiasm, was complied with in most instances and it was observed that the natives on no occasion questioned the justice of the claim that they should take some part in a war waged by the Empire to which they had now given their adherence.

"It is worthy of notice that the natives of the country thankfully welcomed the visits of the Medical Officer and his subordinates when

engaged in village improvements or employed in prophylactic measures against smallpox and that they brought their children and non-immunes in large numbers to be vaccinated. The alien settlements, however, were suspicious and gave some trouble, particularly the large Wangara population of Wenchi, who are singularly averse to any form of control."

Northern Province.

The Nkoranzas showed a much keener interest in their material welfare since the opening of the Ejura-Nkoranza road and it is hoped that this lethargic tribe will endeavour to emulate their more enterprising compatriots.

The Divisions of Banda and Atebubu were peaceful and quiescent throughout the year.

By far the most important event of the year for the natives was the decision to throw the Gold Coast Regiment open to Ashanti Recruits. Although the decision was not enthusiastically received, the Chiefs vied with each other to supply men and this occasioned much friendly rivalry. Altogether, about 1,000 Ashantis joined the Regiment. The Acting Governor accompanied by Colonel Heywood paid Ashanti a visit in March and held recruiting meetings at Obuasi, Mampon, and Juaso, besides Coomassie. Thus encouraged and stimulated, Ashantis overcame their traditionally ingrained dislike of the Regiment and actually joined the Force that they had been taught to look upon as their natural foe.

The Native Chiefs were liberal in their contributions towards Red Cross and other charitable institutions, over £1,900 having been collected from the various classes of the community during the year. A third Ashanti Aeroplane was contributed by the Chiefs in the month of July—the Omanhin of Adansi having contributed as much as £1,000 towards it.

General.

It is difficult to speak too highly of the general attitude of the Ashantis towards the Government and the British Crown. Their loyalty is fast becoming a deep rooted sentiment which will safeguard the country against any political trouble of importance. Although devotees of the Law Courts and loving litigation, as all West African natives do, their common sense restrains them and they indulge in this particular luxury with praiseworthy moderation.

Wages.

A shilling per day and 3*d.* subsistence is the standard rate for unskilled labour.

This is mainly supplied from the Northern Territories, but a fair number of Yorubas find their way into the Dependency for work.

Skilled labour is scarce and proportionately dear.

Prospects of Future Trade.

The prospects of future trade are not bright at present, owing to the fall in the price of cocoa, but once normal conditions again prevail, the Dependency will gain its full share of the Colony's prosperity.

F. C. Fuller,
Chief Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	„
931	Gibraltar	„
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	„
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	„
938	Falkland Islands	„
939	Sierra Leone	„
940	Straits Settlements	„
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	„
943	Jamaica	„
944	Somaliland	„
945	Swaziland	„
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	„
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	„
952	Leeward Islands	„
953	St. Vincent	„
954	Uganda	„
955	Nyasaland	„
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	„
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	„
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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FOR 1918.

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FINANCIAL.

The total Revenue collected in Ashanti during 1918 was £43,740 and the total Expenditure amounted to £47,204.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1914	£50,095	£188,123
1915	52,644	105,804
1916	44,824	91,751
1917	51,868	81,263
1918	43,740	47,204

The Revenue figures do not include the import duty on goods consumed in Ashanti, or the earnings on the Ashanti portion of the Railway.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £822,300 as compared with £1,024,250 in 1917 and £1,140,750 in 1916.

2. The total is made up as follows :—

Merchandise imported by Railway	£387,000
Cattle	350,000
Sheep and Goats	30,000
Horses	3,700
Dawa-dawa	23,600
Shea butter	18,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
	£822,300

3. Goods of all classes imported by Railway amounted to a tonnage of 11,975 as against 17,663 and 22,701 in 1917 and 1916 respectively.

4. A largely decreased import of *Beer, Wines and Spirits* is to be recorded for the year ; 378 tons with freight value of £6,768 as against 806 tons in 1917 and 1709 tons in 1916.

5. *Fish.*—Imports amounted to 430 tons as against 608 in 1917 and 699 tons in 1916.

6. *Cattle.*—In spite of slackness of trade some 93,000 head of Cattle were imported into Ashanti in 1918 as against 103,000 in 1917. The average price in Coomassie during the year was £7 10/- but half that sum represents a fair import value of, say, £350,000.

7. *Sheep and Goats.*—A large decrease has to be recorded for the year.

It is estimated that 60,000 Sheep and Goats were imported into Ashanti during 1918 as against 115,000 in 1916—Average price throughout the country 10/- representing an import value of £30,000.

8. *Dawa-dawa and Shea Butter.*—Approximately 11,800 loads of Dawa-dawa (a North Country food) and 12,000 of Shea butter were imported during the year—These figures show a slight increase over 1917.

Import value of these commodities is estimated at 40/- a load of Dawa-dawa and 30/- for Shea butter representing a value of £23,600 and £18,000 respectively.

9. *Horses.*—473 Horses were imported during the year at an average price of £8 a head or a total import value of say £3,700.

10. The Head *Miscellaneous* includes a variety of Articles such as Cloths, Skins, Fowls, Fish, Guinea Corn etc. and is estimated at an import value of £10,000.

11.

EXPORTS.

Gold	£421,736
Cocoa	360,000
Kola	360,000
Rubber	36,000
Cattle and Sheep	70,000
Hides and Skins	20,000
Snails	20,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
	£1,292,736

as compared with £1,378,706 for 1917 and £1,337,011 for 1916.

12. *Gold.*—99,278·85 ounces were produced during the year valued at £421,731 as compared with 116,456.36 ounces valued at £494,706 in 1917.

13. *Cocoa.*—18,023 tons were exported during the year—a decrease of 2,114 tons on 1917—prices averaged round about £20 a ton.

14. *Kola.*—2,877 tons were exported by Railway as against 2,700 in 1917—estimated at £50 a ton— giving an export value of £143,850—to which must be added the value of the nuts exported to the North by head transport—another 5,500 at £40 a ton—a total value of £360,000.

15. *Rubber.*—Only 645 tons were exported in 1918 as against 1,149 in 1917—valued at £36,000.

16. *Cattle and Sheep.*—5,776 Head of Cattle were exported by Railway and 2,532 Sheep and Goats as against 3,869 Cattle and 1,851 Sheep and Goats in 1917. Large quantities are driven down overland and only an approximate valuation of these can be given.

17. *Hides and Skins.*—270 tons of Hides and Skins were exported in 1918 as against 242 tons in 1917. Prices averaged 8d. per lb.

18. *Snails.*—These were plentiful in 1918, but the Influenza Epidemic arriving, as it did, during the best collecting months interfered with the Industry—Average prices 9d. to 1/6 a Stick.

19. *Miscellaneous.*—Includes Corn (in the exportation of which a large increase is to be recorded—463 tons against 69 tons) and Cereals of various kinds.

20. Internal trade remained good and native food was plentiful throughout the year.

21. As the Bank of British West Africa decided to discontinue giving any information on trade and business matters generally, the usual banking resumé has had to be omitted from this year's Report.

22. In comparison with former years, Trade decreased, owing to low prices occasioned by a lack of shipping facilities and war restrictions—Moreover, the introduction of a Paper Currency caused general dissatisfaction among the more ignorant elements of the community and hampered commercial negotiations to a considerable extent. In spite of all this, however, the decrease in the year's trade was less than had been anticipated and the Exports proved surprisingly good.

AGRICULTURE.

23. The Travelling Inspector reports as follows:—

"*Cocoa*:—The systematic visitation of villages was again continued "throughout the year. Travelling Instructors, in most cases, were well "received by Chiefs and farmers, but it was exceedingly disheartening "work trying to get farmers to clean up their farms and remove diseased pods "and branches from the trees, as the majority had fully made up their minds "that the cocoa industry was permanently ruined and it was only due to "frequent visits, and the encouragement that farmers received from Agricul-"tural Officers, that anything was done on many of the farms during the "year—as it was, many farms were left in an abandoned condition and the "neglect must seriously affect the future yields of the trees.

"In order to further encourage farmers and to try and convince them "that the cocoa industry was not ruined, large demonstration plots were "made by Travelling Instructors in a few of the principal villages. Only "such tools as could be obtained locally were used in carrying out the necessary "work. In a few instances the demonstration, which consisted of cutlassing "and forking under trees, pruning and removal of diseased pods and branches,

" mulching, draining and thinning out trees, attracted considerable attention " and was the means of encouraging a few of the farmers to clean up their " farms.

" In all 48 demonstration plots were made, 22 in the Central, 18 in the " Southern and 8 in the Western Province. Besides these, the Local Cocoa " Instructors carried out numerous smaller demonstrations throughout their " districts.

" The Inspector visited districts where farms were reported by Instructors " to be generally neglected and in many cases he was successful in persuading " farmers to, at least, remove the pods from the trees.

" No effort was lost to impress upon Chiefs and farmers the danger of " abandoning their cocoa farms, but as was to be expected, once the product " was unsaleable at a remunerative price, many of the farmers had no further " interest in their farms.

" Farms generally were more neglected than in the previous year due " largely to lack of interest in farms and to owners having larger areas than " they could control and insufficient capital to engage the necessary labourers " to do the usual cutlassing. In some cases farms received the usual attention, " but fully 50% of the farms received less attention than formerly. Insect- " infected farms were in most cases totally abandoned. Diseases generally " were more prevalent, particularly Thread Fungus and Brown Pod, but " nothing was done to keep them in check.

" The quality of the Crop generally was fair the bulk was fermented, but " contained a very large percentage of flat beans. The serious outbreak of " Influenza and also the fact that there was no market at the beginning of the " season was largely responsible for the crop not being harvested when ripe, " resulting in a large percentage of the germinated beans.

" *Cola* :—Considerable attention was again paid to this crop and in many " cases, particularly in the Western Province, the trees received more attention " than the cocoa trees. The crop was reported to be good and in the outlying " districts realized good prices. In the Coomassie district there appeared to " be a glut owing to the lack of shipping facilities and the price was generally " lower than usual, but all the crop was eventually disposed of.

" *Food Crops* :—There was an abundant supply maintained throughout " the year. Very extensive areas were under maize in the Coomassie district " and the crop generally was good.

" *Local Cocoa Instructors* :—The Instructors remained the same as during " the previous year. Very little attention was paid by the farmers to their " advice or demonstrations—in many cases it was difficult to get even one " farmer in a village to visit his farm with the Instructor.

" *Amanhene's Model Farms* :—These farms remain the same as in the " previous year—the Juaben and Ojesu farms were much neglected and the " cocoa trees on the Ojesu farm were again badly attacked by insect pest—so " much so, that many of the trees have been entirely ruined. The Para " rubber trees on both farms made fair progress.

"The Mampon farm was kept in good order. The cocoa plants made "excellent progress and a few of the Condeamor variety fruited during the year.

"*School Gardens* :—These gardens have received the same attention "as in the previous year. A more intelligent interest is being shown in the "care of these gardens. They have, generally, been kept in fair order and "considerably more attention was paid to the cultivation of annual crops."

Offin Rubber Plantations, Limited.

24. This is the only European owned Agricultural Enterprise in the Dependency.

The Manager reports :—

"Cultivated area remained the same *i.e.* 600 acres and comprises :—

90,000 Para Rubber trees
20,000 Funtumia
5,000 Coffee trees (Java Robusta)
3,000 Cocoa trees.

"*Rubber* :—13,000 trees were regularly tapped during the year and yielded "22,365 lbs. rubber which equals 34·4 lbs. per acre or 1·72 lbs. per tree.

"The average cost was 1/1d. F.O.B. Seccondee.

"*Coffee* :—This yielded 2,000 lbs. roasted beans the whole of which was 'sold for local consumption.

"*Cocoa* :—We harvested 35 cwt. fermented and washed cocoa. The "beans as a whole were smaller than usual probably due to the absence of "rain during the end of the year.

"*General* :—The price of rubber was disappointing. The market declined "steadily and at the end of 1918 we were only getting 1/11 lb."

INDUSTRIES.

25. *Mines* :—The amount of Gold produced during the year was 99,278·85 ounces valued at £421,736 1s. 8d. as compared with 116,456·36 ounces valued at £494,706 14s. 0d. produced in 1917.

26. The following Companies produced Gold during the year :—

(*a*) *Mining.*

	Fine Ounces.	*Value.* £	*s.*	*d.*
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd. ..	98,969·13	420,420	16	8
Ashanti Development Company, Limited ..	115·60	490	14	6
J. R. Bellinger (Bilpraw Concession) ..	97·05	412	2	6
(*b*) *Dredging.*				
Offin River Gold Estates, Limited	97·07	412	8	0
Total ..	99,278·85	421,736	1	8

27. The average amount of labour employed daily by Mining and Dredging Companies in Ashanti was :—

	Surface.	Under ground.	Total.
Europeans	47	22	69
Natives	1,775	965	2,740
	1,822	987	2,809

28. *Manufactures* :—There are practically no Manufactures for export.

Local industries of weaving, basket-making, pottery and Goldsmith work are carried on generally throughout the Country but few of the manufactured articles find their way over the borders of the Dependency.

29. *Fisheries* :—Lake Busumtwi (otherwise known as the Sacred Lake) produces great quantities of small fish. These are in high demand and practically all consumed locally.

The Rivers also yield a limited supply of fish—otherwise there are no Fisheries in Ashanti.

LEGISLATION.

30. The following Rules, Orders etc. were made and put in force during the year 1918 :—

Rule No. 15 *of* 1918 (Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti).—Re Control of Food prices under " War Emergency Regulations "—(Gazette No. 44 of 1918 page 921).

Rule No. 1 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—With respect to Prisons and Prisoners in Ashanti—(Gazette No. 37 of 1918 page 807).

Rule No. 2 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Applying the Market Rules made on the 4th December, 1902, and on the 2nd April, 1906, to the Market at the Zongo in Coomassie—(Gazette No. 48 of 1918).

Rule No. 3 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Under the Infectious Diseases Ordinance, 1908—(Gazette No. 53 of 1918 page 1403).

Rule No. 4 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Amendment of the Proclamation issued on the 15th March, 1915, under " The Firearms, Ammunition and Gunpowder Ordinance, 1892 "—(Gazette No. 88 of 1918 page 1514).

Rule No. 5 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Declaration of the Rules with respect to the keeping of Dogs made on the 1st June, 1910 to have full legal effect and force in the Town of Coomassie—(Gazette No. 90 of 1918 page 1539).

Rule No. 6 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—With respect to the Regulation of the business of Fishery in Lake Busumtwi—(Gazette No. 90 of 1918 page 1541).

ORDERS.—1918.

31. *No.* 1 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Re-fixing of date for "The Geneva Convention Act 1911 (Colonies), Order in Council, 1917," to come into force in Ashanti. (Gazette No. 34 of 1918 page 750).

No. 2 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Appointment of Roger Evans Hall to be a Judge of Ashanti under the title and style of Circuit Judge.—(Gazette No. 48 of 1918 page 973).

No. 6 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Appointment of all European Officers of the Public Works Department doing duty in connection with the public roads of Ashanti to be Officers to exercise powers vested in Police Officers and Members of the Police Force under "The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1915."—(Gazette No. 77 of 1918 page 1317).

No. 7 *of* 1918 (Ashanti).—Appointment of the Commissioner of Police for the time being stationed in Coomassie to be Licensing Officer under "The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1915."—(Gazette No. 81 of 1918 page 1362).

ORDINANCES.—1918.

32. Fifteen Ordinances were enacted during the year 1918, as follows :—

1. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)

(*a*) by repealing subsection 12 of section 26 of the principal Ordinance and substituting therefor

(*b*) by adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Criminal Code (Book 1) Extension of Application Ordinance, 1917."

2. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902) by adding in their chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

(*a*) "The Enemy Property control and disposal Ordinance 1914."

(*b*) "The Enemy Property control and disposal Ordinance 1916."

(*c*) "The Enemy Property control and disposal (Extension of Powers) Ordinance, 1918."

and (*d*) By repealing "The Enemy Property control and disposal Ordinance (Ashanti) 1914.

3. An Ordinance to amend the law with respect to the taking of Oaths, and for purposes connected therewith.

4. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Controlling Officer of Enemy Property (Extension of Powers) Ordinance, 1918."

5. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in their chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Recovery of Money Loans Ordinance, 1918."

and "The Alien Missionaries and Teachers Restriction Ordinance, 1918."

6. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Marriage Records (Cure of Irregularities and Omissions) Ordinance, 1918."

7. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902) *viz* :—Amendment of section 8 of the principal Ordinance and Repeal of subsection 3 of section 23 of the principal Ordinance and substitution therefor.

8. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902) *viz* :—Repeal of section 6 of the principal Ordinance and substitution therefor to cover power to Governor to appoint a Judge of Ashanti.

9. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Diseases of Animals Ordinance, 1918."

10. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902) *viz*:—By deleting from section 27 of the principal Ordinance and substituting therefor to include a penalty of fine or of imprisonment.

11. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The West African Currency Notes Ordinance, 1918."

12. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Boy Scouts Association Ordinance, 1918."

13. An Ordinance to amend "The Ashanti Firearms Ordinance, 1907 (No. 5 of 1907)."

14. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Currency Offences Ordinance, 1918."

15. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (No. 1 of 1902)—By adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti

"The Basel Mission Ordinance, 1918."

EDUCATION.

Government Schools.

33. *Coomassie—Boys School.*—Average No. on Roll 420 as compared with 441 in 1917.

Average attendance 344·12—a decrease of 25·8 on last year's average.

Ashantis made up 56% of the Roll.
Fantis „ „ 27% „ „ „

Girls School.—Average No. on Roll 106·5.

Average Attendance 89·25.

The decreases were due almost entirely to Influenza.

Many of the Children did not return after the closing of the schools due to the Epidemic.

The Schools were closed from September 24th to November 11th.

Sunyani.—The Government School at Sunyani opened the year with 91 Scholars on the Roll. Admissions numbered 27 and departures 24, thus the numbers at the close of 1918 totalled 94.

The Average daily attendance was 88·3.

On account of the Influenza Epidemic the School was closed for 39 days.

The discipline and tone of the School were remarkably good.

The School was visited and inspected during June, by the Officer in Charge, Education Department, Ashanti, who reported favourably on the general work.

Juaso.—A new School was formally opened in April, at Juaso in the Ashanti Akim District by the Chief Commissioner.

The Roll then numbered 72 Children which speedily increased to 130.

This School has proved extremely popular and some Missions lost Scholars in consequence.

Mission Schools.

34. *Church of England.*—The Coomassie School averaged an attendance of 216. A small School of between 20 and 30 Children is maintained at Jachi in the Coomassie District.

The Coomassie School received a Government grant of £117 and good progress was reported by the Inspector.

Wesleyan.—This Mission now numbers 20 Day Schools in Ashanti with a Roll of 1,007 Children (932 Boys and 75 Girls) as against 845 in 1917.

Scottish.—This Mission took over the Schools of the late Basel Mission. It now numbers 28 Schools with a Roll of 1,154 Scholars—Five of which received Government grants.

Roman Catholic.—This Mission now only numbers one School with a Roll of 148 Scholars—Two Schools were shut down during the year.

Seventh Day Adventists.—Numbers four Day Schools with a Roll of 100 Scholars.

Zion.—Two Day Schools with 193 Scholars.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

35. The following is a list of Hospitals in Ashanti :—

European General Hospital	.. ..	Coomassie.
Native „ „	.. ..	„
Contagious Diseases „	.. ..	„
Native General „	.. ..	Sunyani.
do. do. „	.. ..	Kintampo.
Contagious Diseases „	.. ..	Obuasi.

European In-patients treated during the year	..	143
Native do. „ „ „ „	..	2,449
European Out Patients „ „ „ „	..	95
Native „ „ „	..	15,411
		18,098

Savings Banks.

36. Savings Banks are established at Coomassie and Obuasi.

Operations were as follows :—

Number of Depositors in	Coomassie ..	..	790	=	£2,590	6	0
Do. „ „ „	Obuasi ..	..	341	=	1,125	19	0
Do. „ Withdrawals „	Coomassie ..	..	461	=	3,312	7	4
Do. „ „ „	Obuasi ..	..	146	=	1,370	4	2
Fresh Depositors in	Coomassie ..	.	..	148				
Do. „ „	Obuasi ..	..	..	62				

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

37. The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on December 31st 1918 was 137 as against 130 in 1917.

Besides the above ten Railway Police were stationed in Ashanti.

The Mines Police were abolished in February and embodied in the General Police.

In Coomassie 1,345 prosecutions were instituted during the year as against 921 in 1917.

In Obuasi 521 prosecutions as against 527 in the previous year.

Out of 62 prosecutions in the Chief Commissioners Court, 49 obtained convictions.

The Police performed their duties in an efficient manner and discipline was well maintained.

PRISONS.

38. Prisons are established at Coomassie, Obuasi, Kintampo, Sunyani, Ejura and Juaso.

COOMASSIE.

Total number of Convict Prisoners admitted during the year was 743 as against 398 in 1917.

Daily average	144
Debtor prisoners numbered	124

OBUASI.

Convict Prisoners admitted 273 as against 213 in 1917.

Daily average	68·5
Debtor Prisoners	59

KINTAMPO.

Admissions	55
Daily Average	9
Debtor Prisoners	10

SUNYANI.

Admissions	147
Daily average	22
Debtor Prisoners	20

EJURA.

Admissions	45
Daily average	9·14
Debtor Prisoners	Nil.

JUASO.

Admissions	60
Daily average	11·9
Debtor Prisoners	24

Apart from the Influenza Epidemic the health of the Prisoners generally was good. The Books were well kept and discipline well maintained.

Criminal Cases.

39. The following table gives a list of the Criminal Cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and indicates the manner in which they were dealt with :—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Dismissed on merits	Convicted.	Discharged for want of prosecution by the party complaining or want of evidence.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner's ..	66	12	47	7	—
District Commissioner, Coomassie	354	23	292	19	20
Police Magistrate	2,591	155	2,381	43	12
District Commr., Ejura ..	143	22	104	13	4
District Commr., Juaso ..	230	14	125	23	68
Commissioner, Southern Province	789	88	588	99	14
Commissioner, Western Province	255	36	212	5	2
District Commr., Wenchi	112	-	112	—	—
Commissioner, Northern Province	155	12	141	1	1
District Commissioner, British Kratchi ..	53	6	47	—	—
Totals	4,748	368	4,049	210	121

A decrease of 1,039 cases as compared with last year's.

40. Serious crime was as follows :—

Murder	8
Attempt at murder	2
Manslaughter	11
Rape	11
Robbery with violence	11

41. 2,069 Civil cases, distributed as follows, were disposed of during the year—a decrease of 513 on last year's :—

Chief Commissioner's Court	69
Commissioner, Southern Province	503
Commissioner, Western Province	119

Commissioner, Northern Province	42
Police Magistrate's Court	810
District Commissioner, Commassie	176
District Commissioner, Juaso	171
District Commissioner, Ejura	179
	2,069

42. The "Fees and Fines" of Court during the year amounted to £4,542 18s. 10d. distributed as follows:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	£622 19 3
Commissioner, Southern Province	746 0 0
Commissioner, Western Province	236 0 0
Commissioner, Northern Province	138 3 5
Police Magistrate's Court	1,385 0 10
District Commissioner, Coomassie	846 14 7
District Commissioner, Juaso	234 15 11
District Commissioner, Ejura	333 4 10
	£4,542 18 10

a decrease of £1,927 3s. 9d. on last year's.

Concessions.

43. Ten new Concessions were filed during the year.

No Concessions were abandoned and no Certificates of Validity were granted.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

44. The Census of 1911 gave Ashanti a population of 287,814 made up as follows:—

Males ..	141,231	Adults ..	170,761
Females ..	146,583	Children ..	117,053
	287,814		287,814

The above figures were admittedly under estimated and the population has increased since then. Unfortunately the Influenza Epidemic that occured in October accounted for a large number of deaths. This is referred to under the next Heading.

45. The Population of Coomassie is estimated at 24,000—made up as follows :—

Ashantis	4,000
Coast Natives	4,000
North Country Natives (Hausas, Wangaras Grunshis, Moshis, Dagombas etc.)	14,000
Various	2,000
Total.. ..	24,000

46. The European population of Ashanti for 1918 was as follows :—

	Government Officials resident on 31st December, 1918 ..	101
Total	„ „ „ in 1918..	224
	Merchants resident	52
	Total Resident in year	108
	Miners Total resident	102
	Missionaries resident five ; total resident	7
and	Syrians	50

Of the above two deaths occurred among Government Officials and 24 invalidings ; no deaths and two invalidings among the Merchants ; six deaths and eight invalidings among the Miners and none among the Missionaries.

Out of 50 Syrian Traders, five died—all from Influenza.

Public Health.

47. The Provincial Medical Officer reports as follows :—

Government Officials.

" There has been a marked increase in the number of Patients in the " European Hospital in 1918, as compared with the previous year's record. " This was largely but not entirely due to the epidemic of Influenza which " swept over Coomassie in the month of October.

" The presence in Coomassie during the last three months of the year " of an unusually large number of Officers and British N.C.Os. of the Gold Coast " Regiment, who had returned from the East African Campaign, many of " them saturated with malaria, helped to swell the total.

" The health of the Civilian Government Officials continued fair not- " withstanding the prolonged tours and increased duties demanded of them " by the exigencies of the Service.

" Of the 24 European Officials who were invalided during 1918, 18 were soldiers and six civilians.

" The two deaths claimed by the Influenza Epidemic were also soldiers.

" There were seven deaths among the Native Officials compared with " four last year. Six of these deaths were due directly to Influenza and one " to pneumonia following Influenza.

General European Population.

"The Health has been fair. There were four deaths out of eleven cases "of Influenza—these occured among the European Miners at Obuasi.

General Native Population.

"There was in 1918 an increase of 931 in the number of In-patients and "an increase of 1,582 in the number of Out-patients as compared with the "numbers of the previous year. This affords striking evidence of the steadily "increasing popularity of the Government Native Hospitals and of the in- "creasing desire of the Natives to avail themselves of the benefits of European "treatment.

"To obviate the congestion in the Native Hospital in Coomassie, resulting "from the large number of Natives who came for indoor treatment, three new "Wards were added to the Hospital. They were completed in October and "opened for patients in November.

Epidemic Diseases.

"The Epidemic of Spanish Influenza which first appeared in Coomassie "on the 23rd September, reached its height in October and gradually "declined during the month of November.

"The most prevalent diseases besides the Influenza were the same as in "the previous years *viz* :—Malaria, Diseases of Pulmonary and Digestive "Systems and skin diseases."

The Medical Officer of Health reports the Influenza "assumed a pandemic "form in October and spread from Coomassie to all villages in the vicinity "and also along the Ejura Road towards the Northern Territories.

"The onset was inevitable owing to the contagiousness of the disease "and the impossibility of instituting effectual preventive measures in a "country like this."

48. In Coomassie 381 Natives, five Syrians and two Europeans were registered as having died of Influenza but this by no means represents the real loss sustained by the Community, as by far the greater portion of bodies were taken out of the town for burial and remained unregistered.

49. Accurate figures have not hitherto come to hand, but the following is an approximate number of deaths due to this scourge :—

Central Province	.. .. ..	4,500
Western ,,	.. .. ..	1,500
Northern ,,	.. .. ..	500
Southern ,,	.. .. ..	2,500
	Total	9,000

Sanitation and Climate.

50. The Sanitation of Coomassie, Obuasi, Kintampo, Sunyani, Ejura and Juaso was efficiently maintained.

Only 2,846 people were vaccinated—out of which number 2,264 proved successful cases.

The demand by the Natives for Village Overseers to lay out and improve their Villages generally still continues to a gratifying extent. A better type of house is springing up throughout the country and an endeavour at ornamentation of exteriors and planting of flowering plants is to be noticed.

Coomassie :—	Rainfall	61″96
	Mean temperature.. ..	74°95
Obuasi :—	Rainfall	67″17
	Mean temperature.. ..	78°
Kintampo :—	Rainfall	71″73
	Mean temperature.. ..	79°
Sunyani :—	Rainfall	41″·21

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

51. *Services :*—Daily between Coomassie and Seccondee. Bi-weekly and weekly to up Country Stations.

52. The following is a Statement of the operations of the Department :—

	Number.	*Amount.* £ *s.* *d.*
Inland Messages dealt with in Ashanti	20,021 ..	1,263 11 11
Forwarded Cablegrams	1,717 ..	1,783 14 9
Messages forwarded to Ivory Coast	52 ..	7 1 11½
„ „ „ Togoland	251 ..	31 16 11
Received Cablegrams	1,762 ..	112 11 3
„ Messages from Ivory Coast	66 ..	11 6 8
„ „ „ Togoland	229 ..	29 4 4½
„ „ of Ashanti	22,548 ..	1,127 18 0

	Coomassie. £ *s.* *d.*	*Obuasi.* £ *s.* *d.*
Sale of Stamps	7,862 1 1½	1,984 0 6
„ „ Registered Envelopes	26 17 3	13 5 0
„ „ Post Cards	10 10 7	0 4 10
„ „ War Tax Stamps	56 17 6	13 15 0

Parcel Post Statistics.

	Ordinary.	*Insured.*	*Total.*	*Amount.* £ *s.* *d.*
Coomassie	3,694	146	3,840	10,504 0 8
Obuasi	662	44	706	2,163 12 1

MONEY ORDERS.

	Number.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Money Orders issued in Coomassie	535	4,698	7	9
" " " " Obuasi	791	9,924	9	10
" " paid in Coomassie	392	7,338	12	2
" " " " Obuasi	73	1,142	3	3
Commission on Money Orders issued in Coomassie		30	15	0
" " " " Obuasi		55	2	3

POSTAL ORDERS.

	Number.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Postal Orders issued in Coomassie	17,250	13,646	5	0
" " " " Obuasi	6,720	5,486	11	6
" " paid in Coomassie	9,690	8,019	19	0
" " " " Obuasi	3,155	2,621	7	1

RETURN OF MAIL MATTER FORWARDED AND RECEIVED.

Total Forwarded.	*Total Received.*
308,340	461,664

RELIGION.

53. The Church of England, Roman Catholics, Wesleyans, Scottish (*late* Basel), Zionists and Seventh Day Adventists maintained Missions in Ashanti.

The Church of England Mission consisted of:—

1 European Priest
and 10 Native Assistants.

Total number of Communicants—1,000

Baptised in 1918—90.

The Roman Catholic Mission consisted of:—

2 European Priests
5 Teachers
and 2 Catechists

Number of Converts—149.

The Wesleyan Mission consisted of:—

2 European Ministers
2 Native Ministers
and 40 Catechists and Teachers with a Baptised Community of 1,627.

The Scottish (late Basel) Mission consisted of:—

3 Native Ministers
25 Catechists
10 Teachers
and 2 Monitors

with a congregation of 2,423 as against 2,142 in 1917.

The Zion Mission consisted of:—

2 Missionary Pastors
10 Preachers
and 8 Class Leaders
with a congregation of 143.

The Seventh Day Adventist Mission consisted of:—
1 Minister
1 Licentiate, 2 Bible Workers.

It numbers three Churches with a Baptised Community of 121.

No friction of any serious nature occured between Christians and Heathens during the year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

Under the supervision of or constructed by the Public Works Department.

54. *The Public Works Department* was in charge of the Main Trunk Road to Ejura and an extension thereof to Yeji; the 10 miles of branch Road to Efiduasi and 20 miles between Ejura and Nkoranza.

The Provincial Engineer reports as follows:—

"Excellent work has been done on the Roads during the year. The "Coomassie—Ejura Road has been maintained in good condition without "having been closed for a single day. The same remarks apply to the Efiduasi "Road which joins the Ejura Road at Ntonsu. The Afram Bridge which "was originally built so narrow as to cause several accidents has been rebuilt, "the width being doubled. A record of the traffic on these Roads has been "kept and although the number is slightly smaller than in preceding years "owing to the slackness in trade, yet 3,409 Lorries passed along the Efiduasi "Road, 1,699 Lorries along the Coomassie-Mampon Section of the Main "Road and 1,248 Lorries along the Mampon-Ejura Section—a total of 6,356 "lorries on the three Roads.

"The total Car miles run on the Roads during the year was 421,810 "averaging about 1,176 miles daily. The Ejura-Yeji Road has been completed "as far as Atebubu—A distance of 40 miles from Ejura and is now a good "motor road which reduces the journey from two or three days to two hours.

"At the request of the Chief Commissioner, a considerable amount of "work has been carried out on the Coomassie-Juaso Road. The bridges, "several of which, including the large Anum bridge, had collapsed, have "been rebuilt and considerable deviations have been made and the surface of "the Road made good. It is now motorable the whole length of 43 miles."

Maintained and constructed under the supervision of Commissioners.

(a) Central Province.

Coomassie District.

55 The following Roads were maintained during the year :—

Coomassie	—Whiresu	20	miles.
„	—Tredeh	9½	„
„	—Tappa	37	„
„	—Nsuta	42½	„
„	—Akumadan	65½	„
„	—Secheredomasi . ..	55	„
Aguna	—Efiduasi	3	„
		232½	„

56. Roads constructed, completed and opened for Motor traffic during the year :—

Coomassie	—Kuntanase	16¼	miles.
Ejisu	—Kuntanase	14¼	„
Coomassie	to Nkawi	14½	„
Coomassie	—Akropong	8½	„
Akropong	—Nkawe branch	3	„
		56½	„

Total motorable miles of road in Coomassie District—135.

57. *Ashanti Akim District.* The Commissioner reports :—That the main road between Juaso and the Coomassie boundary (13 miles) was " rendered " practicable for loaded lorries drawing trailers, which had not hitherto been " able to contend with the heavy gradients between Konongo and Juaso. " This work was successfully carried out duirng the last quarter of the year " by the cutting of four new deviations with a maximum grade of one in 20. " The clearing for this was all done by the Chiefs under the supervision of " the District Commissioner and Public Works Department though greatly " hindered by the Influenza Epidemic. In addition to this four banks were " made by the Chiefs and the whole surface was gravelled and all bridges " and Culverts repaired by the Public Works Department throughout " the length of the road with the result that a constant motor service has been " able to relieve the pressure of Store accommodation for Cocoa in Juaso."

Total motorable miles in the Ashanti Akim District—16.

58. *Ejura District* :—The Main Trunk road runs through this District.

The following new roads were constructed and opened for Motor traffic during the year :—

Effiduasi—Nsuta	11	miles.
Nsuta —Main Road	3	„
Mampon—Benim	3	„
	17	„

Total motorable miles in the District excluding Public Works Roads .. .. 20 miles.

59. *Motorable Roads in the Central Province :—*

Coomassie District	135	„
Ashanti Akim „	16	„
Ejura „	20	„
Under Public Works Department ..	130	„
	301	„

(b) Southern Province.

60. Roads constructed or rendered motorable during the year :—

Bekwai—Pekki	14	miles.
Akrokerri-Fomena	10	„
Akrokerri-Jacobu	6	„
	30	„

(c) Northern Province.

61. The Commissioner reports :—

"The Kintampo-Nkoranza pioneer Motor road (36 miles) was completed "and the Chief Commissioner motored over it in a trial trip, on the 29th "December, preparatory to it being formally opened by His Excellency, "The Governor."

Motorable Roads in the Province by the end of the year .. 52 miles.

(d) Western Province.

62. Although Road construction is well advanced in this Province roads therein are as yet not available for Motor Traffic, owing to the heavy bridge work required to connect up the Western with the Central Province.

63. *(e) Motorable Roads in Ashanti.*

Central Province	301	miles.
Southern „	30	„
Northern „	52	„
	383	„

64. When the thickly-wooded, undulating, well-watered nature of Ashanti is taken into consideration, the hard and successful work of the Commissioners can be better appreciated.

They were loyally seconded by the Natives, who are all anxious to connect up with Headquarters by means of motor roads.

65. The total outlay on roads in the Dependency for the year was :—

Maintenance	£1,523	0	9
Construction	2,436	8	5
	£3,959	9	2

Railway.

66. The Railway runs in Ashanti from the Ofin River to Coomassie—a distance of 67¼ miles.

The Passenger traffic amounted to 119,324 Inward and 116,099 Outward as against 24,559 and 131,467 in 1917. Besides the above 116,101 passengers were carried up and down within as against 103,261 the previous year.

11,975 tons of Merchandise were imported into Ashanti and 26,073 exported as against 17,663 tons and 26,507 respectively in 1917.

The above figures are exclusive of Firewood carried between Ashanti Stations. This amounted to 28,410 tons.

5,776 Cattle and 2,532 Sheep and Goats were exported by rail during the year as against 3,869 and 1,851 respectively in 1917.

429 tons of dried Fish and 378 tons of Beer, Wines and Spirits were imported as against 608 and 806 tons respectively in 1917.

Main articles of Export were :—

Cocoa	18,023	tons	against	20,137	in 1917
Kola Nuts ..	2,877	,,	,,	2,700	,, ,,
Rubber ..	645	,,	,,	1,149	,, ,,
Hides and Skins	270	,,	,,	242	,, ,,
Maize	463	,,	,,	69	,, ,,

Transport.

67. The following table gives the particulars of work performed by the Department during the year :—

	1917	1918
Loads despatched by Railway	1,254	301
Loads despatched to Northern Territories by carriers direct	279	77
Carriers with Officers to Northern Territories direct	60	16
Loads despatched by carriers to places in Ashanti	781	1,652
Carriers with Officers in Ashanti (including those with troops)	1,153	577
Passengers to Ejura by Motor	925	587
Loads to Ejura by Motor	3,333	3,375
Loads delivered in Coomassie	3,953	1,868
Loads moved belonging to Officers arriving and departing	1,207	553
Mails moved to and from Railway Station— bags and baskets	4,902	4,721
Carriers sent out with bags of mails	76	77
Bags of mails by motor to Ejura..	539	593
Carriers engaged on contract for local purposes	354	256
Numbers of Cars sent out	372	331

Ejura Station.

Up traffic—to Yeji etc.

	1917	1918
Loads by carriers	2,418	3,244
Carriers with Officers	1,405	576
Loads of mails	432	460
Loads delivered and moved in Ejura	1,353	942

Down traffic—to Coomassie.

Loads by motor	498	359
Passengers by motor	699	1,052
" personal baggage by motor ..	579	1,105
Mails	339	359

Veterinary.

68. The Acting Veterinary officer reports as follows :—

" As in former years all the cattle arriving at Coomassie from the Northern " Territories and the French dominions were inspected before being slaughtered or being allowed to proceed by rail to Stations near the Coast.

"As in former years also, there were several cases of cattle plague, and a "few cases of anthrax found among the cattle on arrival at Coomassie but the "diseases never reached the stage of a serious epidemic, obviously because "the herds that survived the long and exhausting journey from the French "territories were the "fittest" or were immune to the disease, or had recovered "from it.

"In the three months ending 31st March, 1918, 25 cattle belonging to "herds suspected of cattle plague infection were seized and isolated; of these "18 died from cattle plague while in detention, and seven from pleuro-pneumo-"nia."

69. Table 1 gives a comparative list of the numbers of humped and unhumped cattle imported into Coomassie during 1917, and 1918.

TABLE I.

	Number of imported humped Cattle.		Number of imported not humped Cattle.		Total number of imported Cattle.	
	1917	1918	1917	1918	1917	1918
1st Quarter ..	2,977	2,755	117	230	3,094	2,985
2nd " ..	2,891	2,920	51	109	2,942	3,029
3rd " ..	1,886	2,453	228	151	2,114	2,604
4th " ..	1,748	2,151	382	129	2,130	2,280
Total number of cattle for years ending 31st December, 1917 and 1918 ..	9,502	10,279	778	619	10,280	10,898

The number of Cattle presented at Coomassie during 1918 was 10,898 of which 25 were seized and died in detention; 18 died from cattle plague and seven from pneumonia.

Exportation of Live-Stock from Coomassie.

70. *Cattle*:—The number of cattle inspected and passed for exportation by Railway was 4,727, an increase of 752 on the number exported for 1917.

The number of cattle inspected and passed for exportation by road was 151, a decrease of 142 on the number for the previous year.

Sheep and Goats:—1,158 sheep and 440 goats were passed for exportation by Railway during 1918.

1,053 sheep and 359 goats were passed for exportation by Road.

Inspection, Coomassie Town.

71. During the year 166 dogs were inspected, out of these 40 were seized for mange and 19 killed.

406 sheep were inspected—out of these 31 were seized for scab and three killed.

372 goats were inspected—out of these five were seized for scab and four killed.

Six donkeys were inspected—none of them appeared to be infected.

COOMASSIE TOWN.

72. The following comparative table shows the Town Revenue collected during the year :—

	1916			1917			1918		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Rents of Town Plots	2,861	9	8	2,928	16	11	2,928	3	4
„ „ Zongo „	797	3	6	876	19	0	1,024	8	6
Market Rents	299	6	0	284	1	0	278	13	0
Slaughter House fees	695	0	0	753	9	6	933	3	0
Spirit Licences	2,100	0	0	2,200	0	0	1,770	10	0
Beer Licences	4	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0
Dog Licences	28	0	0	42	10	0	27	0	0
Kraal Fees	369	19	6	275	0	0	270	12	6
Auctioneers Licences		—			—		30	0	0

New leases granted in 1918	6
New Zongo Plots granted in 1918	46
Leases cancelled „ „	7
Zongo Plots cancelled „ „	5

73. There were 2,591 Criminal Cases heard during 1918, as compared with 3,702 in 1917—the greater number of these being Sanitary Offences.

There were 810 Civil Cases heard during 1918, as compared with 934 in 1917.

Writs of Ca. Sa.	196
Writs of Fi. Fa.	40
Decrease	8

Fines and Fees amounted to £482. 6. 6 and £902. 14 4 respectively.

74. Police of all ranks numbered 73 during the year.

Government Schools.

75. The number of Boys on the Roll were 435—Daily average 344·12.

The number of Girls at the beginning of the year was 89 with a daily average attentence of 151·11.

Other Schools in Coomassie.

Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.
Roman Catholic Mission.
Wesleyan Mission.
Zion Mission.
Scottish Mission.

Population.

76. This is roughly estimated at 24,000.

Miscellaneous.

77. No alteration was made with regard to the Price of Foodstuffs.

78. The following animals were slaughtered during the year :—

Cattle	5,548
Sheep	1,274
Goats	2,696
Pigs	86

79. The total Expenditure on Sanitary Improvements for 1918 was £486. 16. 3.

OBUASI TOWN.

80. The Sanitation of Obuasi and surrounding Districts is carried out by a Sanitary Committee with satisfactory results.

81. The Revenue collected was £6,224 against £8,374 in 1917. The principal decreases were :—

Poll Tax	£945
Spirits Licences	550
and Ground Rents	206

Total Expenditure £7,767.

82. Rainfall for the year 67·17 inches as against 80·50 in 1917 and 72·12 in 1916.

Mean temperature 78°.

Public Works.

83. With the exception of current repairs and necessary works the building programme of the Department was eliminated.

Necessary works included Sanitary Improvements, Special repairs to Roads and a Bridge over the Pru River at Prang. Also three new Blocks were added to the Native Hospital necessitated by the sudden return of the Troops from East Africa. Extensive temporary housing accommodation had also to be provided for these Troops and this was done to the satisfaction of the Military Authorities.

Native Affairs.

84. The relations between the Government and the Chiefs continued to be most satisfactory.

No breaches of the peace were committed by the Ashantis collectively.

Central Province.

(*a*) *Coomassie District.*

85. In the Ofinsu Division, Kobina Kunadu was destooled by the wish of the majority and Kwamin Duodu was elected in his stead.

Relations between Omanhene and Sub-Chiefs of Aguna were somewhat strained, but as a result of an Enquiry grievances were adjusted and affairs settled down once more.

The "Young Men" of the Ejisu division petitioned for the reduction of the "Oath fees" charged by the Chiefs.

Rules and a fixed scale of Court fees and fines were drawn up and agreed to.

Kwamin Chem was appointed to the stool of Bantama *vice* Yao Beakun destooled.

Owusu Sechere succeeded to the Dominasi Stool *vice* Kofi Senchere deceased.

The new "lay out" of Ejisu Town progressed throughout the year and is now an accomplished fact.

(*b*) *Ashanti Akim District.*

86. The new Omanhin of Kumawu who succeeded to the Stool in 1916 under difficult circumstances, failed to retain the full support of his subjects and a series of complaints against him led to disturbances within that Division in June, which were speedily quelled however, order restored and peace made between the two parties.

The out tanding object of interest in the Bompata Division was the drawing up of a "Magna Carta" by the "Young Men," which reduced Court fees and fines and granted them various minor privileges—The moderation

of the demands of the "Young Men's" party won the day and peace has reigned throughout the Division since the acceptance of the terms by the Omanhin and Elders.

Similar Charters were drawn up for the *Juaben* and *Obogu* Divisions (subject to revision after a year's trial) with satisfactory results.

(c) *Ejura District.*

87. The Omanhene of Atebubu was removed for drunkenness and a new Chief elected in his stead. The Sub-Chiefs of Jamasi Efiduasi (both belonging to the Mampon Division) lost their respective Stools owing to the heavy debts incurred by them—otherwise all was peaceful in the District.

Southern Province.

88. The Provincial Commissioner reports:—

"The year has been one of comparative stagnation. The Natives unable "to find a market for their produce or to purchase articles of luxury and "comfort as in the past, and not entirely appreciating the situation, became "somewhat apathetic.

"Their depression was enhanced by the devastating epidemic of Influenza "which swept through Ashanti in October and November, and it then "became more difficult than before to interest them in communal affairs."

In the Bekwai Division a boundary dispute between the Chief of Amoaful and his Liege Lord caused a certain amount of dissent until settled by the executive.

The Omanhene of Adansi continued to administer his Tribe with marked ability.

The Chief of Ayassi was destooled for infringement of Native Custom and a successor elected without incident.

The *Mansu-Nkwanta.* Division is backward and the Stool is in debt owing to the maladministration of the late Omanhene.

"The Omanhene of the *Kokofu* Division is active in the discharge of his "duties and jealous of his dignity and authority. He seems to have attempted "to place his Stool in a position of complete authority over those of Assechere "and Essaman—not strictly in accordance with their actual position. This "has resulted in the case of the Assecheres in a movement to withdraw their "allegiance altogether from the Kokofu Stool.

"The Moshi and Wangara Settlers in the Province have given a good "deal of trouble during the year. It is unfortunately true that these people "who might easily earn an honest livelihood and establish themselves in "comparative comfort in a country capable of supporting a much larger "population than it does at present, would seem to prefer larceny to any "recognised occupation."

The above comment is equally applicable to the whole of Ashanti the inhabitants of which these North Country Immigrants look upon as fair prey for the exercise of their criminal rapacity. Nearly all "highway robbery" or "robbery with violence" cases are due to these miscreants—a large proportion of whom, no doubt, flee from just retribution in their own country.

Northern Province.

89. The relations of the Chiefs with each other were good with the exception of a quarrel between the Nkoranza and Mo people.

The Provincial Commissioner reports:—"The Nkoranza claim that the "Mo people are their subjects and that the whole of the Country occupied "by the Mos South of the River Black Volta belongs to Nkoranza on the ground "that during the Ashanti Tekiman war (about 1731), the Mos who were allies "of the Tekimans submitted to the Nkoranzas, who were then allied to Ashanti, "and served them until recent years.

"The Mos' argument is that they served Ashanti through Nkoranza until "1898 when the Ashantis made war on the Nkoranzas and defeated them, and "drove them beyond Atebubu, while the Mos fled to Babato North of the "Black Volta.

"When the British Government defeated the Ashantis in 1900, the "Nkoranzas and Mos threw off the yoke of Ashanti and re-settled in their "old towns, and neither have since served Ashanti.

"The Mos therefore assert that since this time they have no longer served "Nkoranza and claim that they are not subjects of Ashanti and that the land "they occupy is their own, and that they have a right to serve the British "Government direct."

The matter was solved by declaring Mo independent of Nkoranza in consideration of the former yielding up a strip of land to the latter Division—both parties cordially accepting the decision.

Western Province.

90. The Provincial Commissioner reports as follows:—

"Political conditions throughout were satisfactory as regards relations "between the Government and Chiefs with one minor exception in the case of "the Chief of Kukuom whose appointment as Omanhin of Ahafo was not "confirmed in consequence of his dilatory and procrastinating behaviour. "In September being unable to reply to charges made against him by his "people with regard to fetish practices which he had not discarded according "to promise when he was elected by them, he decided to resign the stool "A successor had not been selected by the end of the year.

"The Chief of Noberkor and the Queen mother of that stool were in "opposition at the close of the year, and it remained to be investigated whether "his hasty decision to relinquish the Stool, which he took shortly afterwards "from her custody, constituted a destoolment in Native law.

"The Chiefs of Ahafo sought the banishment of Ex-Chief Beditor of Mim "from the Province and the Government acceded to their united request. "the influence of this Ex-Chief continued to make itself felt more or less by "the Mim Stool family.

" Owing to the mortality from Influenza the fetish Priests of Wam and " Berekum endeavoured to revive the Afunsoa Custom as it was considered " that the deaths were due to the malignant influence of witches. Letters " were sent out to all Omanhin prohibiting the custom which will in all pro- " bability be forbidden by proclamation or rule under legal penalty.

" The Chiefs of the Province responded most willingly to an invitation to " subscribe to another Ashanti Aeroplane, and were agreable to the transfer " of the money raised to Red Cross purposes when that was proposed to them.

" Considerable pleasure was exhibited by the natives upon receiving news " of the signing of the Armistice, not untinged with the hope that trade pros- " pects would speedily improve their financial outlook.

" An attempt by Sefwhi people to put a ferry on the Bia River where " it is included in Ashanti territory caused some agitation to the Omanhin of " Ahafo and the persons who, on his behalf, work the old established ferry in " that neighbourhood.

" In March the Omanhin of Drobo reported that a number of his people " who had visited the Ivory Coast for the purpose of buying rubber had been " arrested in order to provide recruits for the War. After a period of incar- " ceration at Bonduku, during which a number escaped from their French " guards, the remainder were sent back over the border. In consequence " of this action on the part of the French Commissioner a system of granting " passports to British natives desirous of entering French territory was inaugu- " rated in order to certify their origin.

" The Mansihene Kwamin Adjei of Wam elected during 1917, died in " 1918. He was succeeded by Kojo Jabaa who was elected without opposition.

" In April a new Chief of Bechim named Kojo Bedu was elected unani- " mously to the Stool, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Yao Buampon " on February, 10th."

General.

91. It is gratifying to be able to reiterate that the attitude of the Ashantis proved exemplary throughout the trying fourth year of hostilities.

No single incident approaching defiance of or opposition to the Government, mars the political record of 1918.

92. The return of the Troops of the Gold Coast Regiment from active service in East Africa was greeted with general acclamation and admiration throughout the Dependency, while the receipt of the news of the Armistice terms occasioned an outbreak of sincere gratitude and rejoicing among Chiefs and Commoners alike.

93. Contributions to the Red Cross Fund for the year amounted to £3,608 13. 11,—£528 of which was collected on " OUR DAY " in December, at a series of fêtes in Coomassie.

94. The appointment of a Circuit Judge, to assist the Chief Commissioner in the discharge of his criminal work, was well received and understood by the Natives.

Wages.

95. A shilling per day and 3d. subsistence remains the standard rate of pay for unskilled labour.

This is mainly supplied from the Northern Territories and adjacent Tribes.

Prospects of future Trade.

96. With the cessation of hostilities and the return to more normal conditions the prospects for future trade have at once assumed a brighter aspect. But these are entirely dependent on the European situation and must necessarily be subservient to the large issues at stake regulating the world's markets.

As soon as commercial developments can find the means to dispose of the produce of the Country, so soon will a bright and prosperous future be assured to the Dependency.

Suitability for Europeans.

97. The Climate of Ashanti is not suited for permanent European settlement.

The average stay in the Country is of twelve months' duration after which recuperation in a more bracing climate is desirable.

The European Community consists exclusively of Officials, Merchants, Bankers, Miners and Missionaries.

F. C. FULLER,

Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

Coomassie,

May 2 1919.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	,,
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	,,
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	,,
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	,,
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	,,
997	Basutoland	,,
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	,,
1007	Ceylon	,,
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St Helena	,,
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1012.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1921.

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FOR 1919.

GOLD COAST:

GOVERNMENT PRESS, ACCRA

1920.

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FINANCIAL.

The total Revenue collected in Ashanti during 1919 was £23,583 11s. 1d. and the total expenditure amounted to £115,104 16s. 8d.

2. The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1915	£52,644	£105,804
1916	44,824	91,751
1917	51,868	81,263
1918	43,740	47,204
1919	23,583	115,104

3. The Revenue figures do not include the import duties on goods consumed in Ashanti, nor the earnings of the Ashanti portion of the railway, nor does it include stamp duties, ferry-tolls and mining royalties.

4. The increase in expenditure is due to the resumption of the usual services which were more or less dormant during the war.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports.

5. Imports into Ashanti amounted to the gross value of £1,773,257, as compared with £822,300 in 1918, and £1,024,250 in 1917.

The total is made up as follows :—

Imported Merchandise ..	£1,201,257
Cattle	370,000
Sheep and Goats	100,000
Dawa Dawa and Shea Butter..	92,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
	£1,773,257

6. Goods of all classes imported by railway amounted to a tonnage of 13,756, as against 11,975 in 1918, and 17,000 in 1917.

7. Spirits, beers and wines showed an increase of 203 tons during the year; the figures being 581 tons as against 378 in 1918.

8. Fish.—819 tons of native fish were imported from the Coast, a very large increase on the 430 tons brought in 1918.

This was due to the better prices ruling in the market. By the end of the year, the price of this fish had increased four hundred per centum.

9. More than 36,000 head of cattle came in from the Northern Territories. No record was kept of those coming in through the Western Province, but it would be safe to estimate them at about 1,000 or 37,000 in all. This number is less than in 1918 as owing to currency troubles and disease in the Moshi Country, and the greater demand from the French side, the import dropped off seriously towards the end of the year. Prices ruled very high, and an average of at least £10 per head was maintained throughout the year. There being a marked tendency to rise towards the end of the year.

10. 61,158 sheep and goats came from the North and probably another 20,000 from the West. They can be valued at £100,000.

11. 46,000 loads of dawa dawa and shea butter came in to Ashanti from the Northern Territories during the year.

A large increase owing to the high price of imported fats. This is mostly brought down by donkeys, which return with kola. The value may be put down at £2 per load.

12. The head "Miscellaneous" includes all the articles that come in from sources other than the railway which are not otherwise specified. It includes cloths, skins, fowls, fish, guinea corn and numerous other articles.

13. EXPORTS.

Gold	£421,696
Cocoa	£1,425,185
Kola	493,680
Rubber	632
Cattle and Sheep	70,000
Hides and Skins	7,012
Snails	10,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
	£2,433,205

as compared with £1,292,736 in 1918 and £1,378,706 in 1917.

14. *Gold.*—99,269·76 ounces were produced during the year—almost exactly the same quantity as in 1918 when 99,278 ounces were recovered.

15. *Cocoa.*—31,944 tons were brought during the year a large increase over the 18,000 tons sent out in 1918. At the end of the year all warehouse accommodation was overflowing, and a very large export tonnage will be shown by the railway in the early part of 1920. For the value of the 1919 crop I have taken the figures supplied me by the Merchants, which is a fairly accurate estimate of the amount purchased during the year. Prices fluctuated very much, a very high figure being paid towards the end of the season.

16. *Kola.*—2,977 tons were exported by railway, and 3,194 tons to the North, or 6,171 tons @ £80 a ton equalling £493,680.

17. *Rubber.*—Rubber to the value of £632 was purchased during the year, and 32 tons were shipped.

18. *Cattle.*—2,263 head of cattle and 2,383 sheep and goats were shipped over the railway. A large proportion travelled down overland. Fewer numbers were exported than last year for reasons given above, but prices were much higher so that last year's estimate of £70,000 can be safely retained.

19. *Hides* and *Skins.*—108 tons only were shipped by the railway as against 270 last year. Prices were high and £7,012 were expended under this head during the year.

20. *Snails.*—Snails had a bad year and, though high in price, I have thought it better to reduce the estimated value of the export by a half.

21. *Miscellaneous.*—Is hard to estimate. I have left it at the modest figure of last year. Trade was very active during the year, which may be considered as one of exceptional prosperity for Ashanti.

Prices for all articles were high and produce was snapped up eagerly by buyers.

22. The people showed disinclination to keep the Treasury Notes owing to their destructible nature and on receiving them in payment for produce, got rid of them by making purchases in the stores even at the abnormal prices ruling at the time.

AGRICULTURE.

23. The Travelling Inspector reports as follows:—

Cocoa generally.—Every district in the cocoa area was visited, repeated "visits being made to the principal centres so that farmers had every opportu- "nity to obtain advice on their farms if they so desired. The systematic "visitation of villages was again continued during the year. Travelling "Instructors were well received, and in several instances warmly thanked, by "Chiefs and farmers for the encouragement given them. Farms received "considerable attention and serious efforts were made to put them into "former condition, though it will be some time before the trees recover from "the neglect which they have been subjected to for the last three years.

"The year has been exceptionally dry and the trees have consequently "suffered considerably. The insect pest has been very severe and in numerous "cases the young growth has been ruined by Satalbergelle and Helopellis and "the leaves by "Thrip" which spreads at a startling rate. At all meetings "the farmers were impressed with the danger of extending their area beyond "the reasonable limit of their control, but it is feared that they will not realize "the importance of this. Compared with last year the Thread Fungus and "Brown Pod has greatly decreased; this is accounted for by the drought. "Although there was a decrease in crop from previous years the quality was

"very fair. Efforts were made to induce farmers to adopt properly con-
"structed fermenting boxes and plans of these boxes were sent out to Chiefs
"and farmers, and a model was carried round and demonstrated with at
"various meetings.

"Notwithstanding the very high prices realised for cocoa many farmers
"allowed pods to remain on the trees until over-ripe consequently lowering
"the quality of the cocoa."

24. Speaking generally of Ashanti cocoa a marked improvement in preparation for the market can be noted. Most encouraging reports have reached me as to the quality of the beans shipped home; especial mention may be made of the cocoa shipped from Obuasi, which was of exceptional grade.

25. I believe this improvement to be caused largely by the fact that in many cases the buyers refused to accept poor quality beans. There seems to be no doubt that the growers can, and will, prepare their beans properly, if inducement is offered them to do so.

26. The high prices paid have brought in a quantity of money and great prosperity to the people generally in spite of the largely increased cost of living.

27. The work performed by the cocoa instructors was frequently inspected and they are reported to have carried out their duties on the whole in a creditable manner.

28. The work done by the travelling inspectors was most useful and much praise is due them for their arduous and very often thankless labours.

29. *Kola.*—The Travelling Inspector reports that these trees received the usual attention and the crops appeared to be quite up to the average. The trade is entirely in the hands of Mahommedans who either pack up the nuts in large "blys" and despatch them by rail and steamer to Lagos and Kano, or else load them on donkeys and carry them overland to the North. Large profits are made and there is a distinct opening for development on a large scale.

30. *Food Products.*—Owing to the extremely dry season the vegetable crops generally were poor, and in the principal cocoa centres the supply was not abundant. With high prices offered for cocoa the natives had a tendency to neglect the food crops, other than the quantity required for their own consumption. This resulted in the carriers having some difficulty in obtaining food. Fortunately several Head Chiefs realized that carriers could not convey their cocoa to market unless they could obtain food.

31. Every effort was made, both by Commissioners and Inspectors to induce farmers to plant more foodstuffs, but with unsatisfactory results, and some sort of legislation to ensure sufficient planting is urgently called for.

32. A system of better distribution from districts where there is plenty to those where there is a scarcity is also needed.

33. Local rice crops have been extended in the Northern parts of Ashanti and have met with considerable success, the grain being esteemed by the Natives more than the imported sort.

34. Every encouragement is being given to this crop which is mostly in the hands of Mahommedans and Mendis and they seem to be seriously attempting to increase it. If only the Colony can be made self-supporting in this respect an important step forward will have been taken.

35. Ground nuts have not been grown yet to any extent, but large areas of the North are eminently suitable for them, and they will be encouraged when better transport facilities are available.

36. The Agricultural Stations at Coomassie now have 151 acres under cultivation. A most interesting and instructive report has been furnished to which those interested are referred.

37. Experiments on the cocoa plots showed that an acre of amelonado trees produced about 820 lbs of dried cocoa. 11,329 lbs of cocoa were sold at an average of 6·55d. per lb. 37s. 6d. per load of 60 lbs was paid in November at Coomassie—a record price up to then.

38. *Local Cocoa Instructors.*—Of the twelve instructors, two were dismissed, two resigned and one was unable to continue owing to sickness. Two men were trained to take the place of the two dismissed and at the end of the year three vacancies remained unfilled. Instructors carried out numerous demonstrations and gave general advice to the farmers. The work was frequently inspected and although it was necessary to reprimand several for neglect of duty, on the whole they worked in a creditable manner.

39. *Amanhin Farms.*—These remain the same as in the previous year. The cocoa trees in the Juaben farms were cut out, as they were ruined by insect pest, and the area planted up with Para Rubber trees, which are doing well.

The Ejisu farm was badly neglected. The Para Rubber trees are doing well but the cocoa plots are a failure.

Mampong farms are kept in fair order but considerable damage was caused to the cocoa trees by insect pests.

40. *Rubber.*—A series of most interesting experiments, an account of which will be found in the Agricultural report, was conducted during the year.

The total yield of dry rubber was 6,150 lbs and its cost F.O.B. amounted to 8·75d per lb, excluding supervision.

Industries.

41. *Mines.*—The amount of Gold produced for the year was 99,269·76 ounces valued at £421,696 10s. 8d. as compared with 99,278·85 valued at £421,736 1s. 8d. produced in 1918. The following Companies produced gold during the year.

(*a*) *Mining.*

	Fine Ounce.	*Values.*
Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd. ..	96,866·48	£411,488 16 0
Obuasi Mines, Ltd.	2,145·48	9,114 0 8
(*b*) *Dredging.*		
Offin Rivers Gold Estates, Ltd... ..	257·80	1,093 14 0
Total ..	99,269·76	£421,696 10 8

The average amount of labour employed daily by Mining and Dredging Companies in Ashanti was :—

	Surface.	Under-ground.	Total.
European	40	18	58
Natives	1,776	1,016	2,792
Total	1,816	1,034	2,850

42. *Manufactures.*—There are practically no manufactures for export.

Local industries of weaving, basket making, pottery, and goldsmiths work are carried on generally throughout the country, but few of the manufactured articles find their way over the border of the Dependency.

43. *Fisheries.*—Considerable quantities of fish are obtained in the Volta and Pru. In the Volta River, however, this industry is almost entirely in the hands of Battors from the Colony. The fishing industry on Lake Bosumtwi continues with its usual activity and the fish is sold in the markets for miles around. The fishing in this lake is regulated and there have been several convictions made for infringement of the Rules.

LEGISLATION.

44. The following Rules, Orders, etc. were made and put in force during the year, 1919 :—

Rule No. 9 *of* 1919 approved by His Honour the Governor's Deputy on 20th January, 1919, re Suppression of "AFUNSOA" Custom. (*Gazette* No. 11 of 1919, page 156).

Rule No. 1 *of* 1919 Abatement of Nuisances in the town of Coomassie. (*Gazette* No. 34 of 1919, page 460).

Rule No. 2 *of* 1919 (Market Rules) applicable to the town of Obuasi. (*Gazette* No. 40 of 1919, page 516).

Rule No. 3 *of* 1919 (Market Rules) applicable to the town of Coomassie. (*Gazette* No. 40 of 1919, page 516).

Rule No. 5 *of* 1919 Amendment of Rule made by the Chief Commissioner of Ashanti on 15th March, 1915, (*Gazette* No. 70 of 1919, page 898).

Rule No. 6 *of* 1919 Amendment of Rules under Section 27 (5) of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 (*Gazette* No. 81 of 1919).

Rule No. 7 *of* 1919 made under Section 20 of the Ashanti Firearms Ordinance (*Gazette* No. 94 of 1919, page 1222).

ORDERS—1919.

No. 2 *of* 1919—Alteration of Order made under Section 3 of the Ashanti Concessions Ordinance, 1903. (*Gazette* No. 56 of 1919 page 702).

PROCLAMATIONS—1919.

No. 1 *of* 1919—under Section 145 of the Customs Ordinance, 1876, (*Gazette* No. 90 of 1919, page 1162).

REGULATIONS—1919.

No. 4 *of* 1919—The Registration of Cattle in Coomassie Regulations, 1919, (*Gazette* No. 43 of 1919, page 556).

ORDINANCES—1919.

46. Fourteen Ordinances were enacted during the year 1919 as follows :—

1. An Ordinance to amend the Ashanti Firearms Ordinance Amendment of Section 9 of No. 5 of 1907 and Section 3 of 1907 No. 13 of 1918.

2. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, by adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti.

The Special Constables Ordinance No. 5 of 1900.

3. An Ordinance to enable the Governor to appoint a date for the expiration with respect to Ashanti of certain Ordinances relating to the control and disposal of Enemy Properties.

4. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, by adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti.

"The Termination of the Present War (Definition) Ordinance, 1902."

5. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Adminstration Ordinance, 1902, viz :—by adding in its chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti.

"The Muhammedam Marriage Ordinance, 1907."

6. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902. viz. :—Repeal of Section 26 of No. 1 of 1902, and substitution o new Section.

7. An Ordinance to amend the Ashanti Firearms Ordinance, 1907, viz. :—Amendment of Section 9 of Ordinance 5 of 1907, No. 1 of 1919 and amendment of Sections 15 and 16 of Ordinance No. 5 of 1907.

8. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, and the Ashanti Commissioners' Ordinance, 1907, viz. :—Amendment of Section 2 of No. 1 of 1902 and of Section 2 of No. 4 of 1907.

9. An Ordinance to constitute the Office of Circuit Judge, Ashanti, and for purposes connected therewith.

10. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, viz. :—

Amendment of Section 5 of No. 1 of 1902.

(*b*) Repeal of Section 6 of No. 1 of 1902 and No. 8 of 1918.

(*c*) Power to Governor or Chief Commissioner to appoint a person to preside over the Chief Commissioner's Court.

11. An Ordinance to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 by inserting therein in their proper chronological sequence to the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti.

"The Determination of the Time Ordinance, 1919."

12. An Ordinance to repeal the Ashanti Corporal Punishment Limitation Ordinance, 1904.

13. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, viz. :—

Amendment of Schedule to No. 1 of 1902.

14. An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, viz. :—

Amendment of No. 1 of 1902.

(*b*) Provisions in respect of Assistant District Commissioners and of the Police Magistrate, Coomassie.

(*c*) Repeal of No. 8 of 1919.

EDUCATION.

47. The work generally in Ashanti was of a fair standard and during the year showed satisfactory improvement.

48. *Buildings.*—The need for enlargement of both the Boys' and Girls' School at Coomassie is urgent.

49. At Juaso, the building, except for the large central hall, had been erected without proper provision for light. This, however, will be rectified early in 1920.

50. The buildings at Sunyani will probably need enlargement if the number of scholars continues to increase.

51. A new Roman Catholic School is in course of construction at Obuasi.

52. *Wesleyan.* There are 18 schools in Ashanti.

The number of boys on the register is 798. The number of girls on the register 60. Total, 858.

There are 11 teachers.

53. *Zion Missions.*—There are two Sunday schools and two Day Schools.

Total number of scholars 420.

There are 13 teachers.

54. *Scottish Day Adventists.* There are seven schools.

Total roll amounts to 359 members.

55. *Roman Catholic.* There is one School.

Total number of members 191.

56. *Nkoranza.* At Nkoranza, a school was opened by the Scottish Mission in August, with an average membership of 26 scholars.

The 31st Annual School Exhibition was held at Coomassie this year.

This is the first to be held in Coomassie.

The number of exhibits showed an increase over the last Exhibition held.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

COOMASSIE.

Number of Boys	426	
Number of Girls	91	
Total	517	for 1919.

showing an increase of 97 from 1918.

There is a great desire amongst all classes for the younger generation to get education and the facilitites at present available are quite inadequate.

The need for competent teachers is outstanding.

58.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

The following is a list of hospitals in Ashanti:—

European Hospital	Coomassie.
Native „	
Contagious Diseases	

Native Hospital	Sunyani.
„ „	Kintampo.
„ „	Obuasi.
Contagious Diseases	„
European in-patients treated during the year	100
Native „ „ „ „ „	1,511
European out-patients „ „ „ „	34
Native „ „ „ „ „	11,706
	13,351

59.—Savings Banks.

There are savings banks attached to the Post Office of Coomassie and Obuasi.

No. of deposits in Coomassie ..	.. 559	£2,549	16 0
„ „ Obuasi	.. 309	1,485	7 0
No. of withdrawals in Coomassie ..	.. 327	2,769	1 9
„ „ „ Obuasi ..	.. 161	1,384	1 3
Fresh deposits in Coomassie ..	.. 186	857	11 0
„ „ Obuasi	.. 160	905	17 0

POLICE.

60. The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on December 31st, 1919, was 191 as against 127 in 1918, showing an increase of 64.

They were distributed as follows:—

Station.	C.O.P.	A.C.P.	S.S.O.P.	S.O.P.	Clerk.	N.C.O.	Consts.	Total.
Coomassie	1	1	1	1	1	20	72	97
Ejura ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	8
Juaso ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6
Ejisu ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Effiduasie	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Sunyani	—	—	—	—	—	4	18	22
Wenchie	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Kintampo	—	—	—	—	—	3	13	16
British-Kratchi	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Obuasie	—	—	1	—	1	9	22	33
	1	1	2	1	2	41	143	191

Railway Police:—

One Sergeant, two Corporals and eight Constables stationed as follows:—
One Sergeant and four Constables at Coomassie.
One Sergeant and two Constables at Obuassie.
One Corporal and one Constable at Bekwai.
One Constable at Akrokerri.

CRIME.

61. In Coomassie there were 1,401 prosecutions in the Police Magistrate and the District Commissioner's Courts as against 1,345 of the previous year, showing an increase of 56 cases.

1,193 convictions were obtained.

In Obuasi there were 729 prosecutions in the District Commissioner's Court as against 521 of the previous year showing an increase of 208 cases.—562 convictions were obtained.

112 prosecutions in High Court, 64 convictions.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The police performed their duties in a satisfactory manner throughout the year and discipline was well maintained.

62. CRIMINAL CASES.

1. The following table gives a list of the Criminal Cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti and indicate the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Courts.	Cases heard.	Dismissed on the merit.	Convicted.	Discharged for want of prosecution by the party complaining, etc.	Committed for trial.
Chief Commissioner's	107	22	68	17	—
District Commissioner Coomassie	746	35	663	10	38
Police Magistrate ..	2,460	10	2398	45	7
District Commissioner, Ejura ..	95	4	66	22	3
District Commissioner, Juaso ..	288	62	210	8	8
Commissioner, .. Southern Province	991	24	755	166	46
Commissioner, Western Province	335	35	295	4	1
Commissioner, Northern Province	126	16	108	1	1
Dist. Commissioner British Kratchi	62	2	60	—	—
Total ..	5,210	210	4,623	273	104

An increase of 462 cases as compared with last year's.

2. Serious crime was as follows:—

Murder	5
Attempt to commit murder	1
Manslaughter	26
Rape	12
Robbery with violence	12

63. CIVIL CASES.

3. 1,779 Civil cases, distributed as follows, were disposed of during the year: a decrease of 290 on last year's:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	82
Commissioner, Southern Province	445
Commissioner, Western Province	150
Commissioner, Northern Province	16
Police Magistrate's Court	635
District Commissioner, Coomassie	125
District Commissioner, Juaso	218
District Commissioner, Ejura	100
District Commissioner, British Kratchi	8
Total.	1,779

4. The "Fees and Fines" of the Courts during the year amounted to £4,533 18s. 4d. distributed as follows:—

Chief Commissioner's Court	£807	6	7
Commissioner, Southern Province	228	0	0
Commissioner, Western Province	318	0	0
Commissioner, Northern Province	27	18	10
Police Magistrate's Court	1,820	0	0
District Commissioner, Coomassie	391	3	9
District Commissioner, Juaso	731	15	4
District Commissioner, Ejura	168	5	4
District Commissioner, British Kratchi ..	41	8	6
	£4,533	18	4

A decrease of £9 0s. 6d. on last year's.

64. No Concessions were filed during the year and no Certificates of Validity were granted.

Three Concessions were terminated.

VITAL STATISTICS.

65. The last census of Ashanti was taken in 1911 when the population was estimated at 287,814.

The population has undoubtedly increased considerably since that year in spite of the large number of deaths from influenza in 1918.

The figures arrived at in 1911 were as follows:—

Males ..	..	141,231	Adults	..	170,761
Females	..	146,583	Children	..	117,053
		287,814			287,814

The population of Coomassie is increasing largely. It may be estimated as approximately 26,000.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

66. The Provincial Medical Officer reports that the general Health of the European and Native population of Ashanti continued good throughout the year. There was no epidemic with the exception of a mild form of Influenza in November.

67. The most prevalent diseases were Venereal Diseases (most prevalent amongst the Soldiers in Coomassie), Diseases of digestive system, Bronchial affections, Ulcers and Malaria.

68. The slight Influenza epidemic was put down to a company of soldiers arriving from Tamale.

69. The health of the Civilian Officials continued good, only one being invalided. The health of the Officers and Non-commissioned officers of the Regiment was better than in 1918, though there is still room for considerable improvement.

70. The health of Native Officials was good, there being only 3 deaths compared with 7 in 1918. One Native Official was invalided. The health of Non-Official Europeans (not including miners) was exceptionally good, there being no deaths and only 3 invalidings. This is largely due to the fact that the Mercantile Firms have very wisely cut down their tours to eight months.

71. The native population suffer chiefly from Gonorrhorea, etc., but the establishment of a Venereal Clinic in connection with the Native Hospital cannot fail to give satisfactory results.

There was no epidemic during the year.

72, The Provincial Medical Officer reports that the prevailing diseases were :—

1. Venereal.
2. Diseases of the digestive organs.
3. Bronchial affection.
4. Ulcers.
5. Malaria.

73. Of the Europeans who were treated, 45% suffered from Malaria.

Sanitation and Climate.

74. The Sanitation of Coomassie and all outstations was well maintained throughout the year.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health reports that efficient measures were taken to prevent the spread of disease.

Two cases of small-pox were treated in the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

75. Leprosy is stated to be common. The natives are not alarmed at it, and mingle freely with lepers. Steps are being taken to provide an agricultural settlement for them.

76. The extensive clearing of bush and trees at Coomassie which now extends to nine square miles—seems to have affected the rainfall and consequently the water supply.

The total rainfall during 1919 was as follows :—

Coomassie. —37·08 inches (the lowest for 10 years).
Sunyani. 41·30 „
Kintampo. 79·58 „
Obuasi. 45·28 „

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

77. The usual services were maintained but with some irregularity between Coomassie and the North owing to the lack of sufficient mechanical transport.

1919.	Number.	Amount.
Inland messages	31,428 ..	£2,014 1 4
Forwarded cablegrams	2,160 ..	137 8 0
Messages to Ivory Coast	59 ..	5 10 0
Messages to Togoland	107 ..	8 3 2½
Received cablegrams	1,800 ..	114 2 0
Messages from Ivory Coast	99 ..	11 1 0
Messages from Togoland	92 ..	6 18 1
Messages of Ashanti	21,892 ..	6,632 9 8
	5,7637 ..	£8,929 13 3½

1919.

Stations.	Money Orders.					Postage Stamps Sold.			
	Issued.		Paid.		Commission.	Sale of Stamps.	Envelopes.	Cards.	War Tax Stamps
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.					
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coomassie ..	532	5,279 4 9	211	3,542 2 4	39 16 0	13,012 4 0	58 13 9	3 3 1	56 12 0
Obuasi ..	463	7,558 14 8	67	706 15 2	43 15 2½	2,728 11 6	17 13 11	— 15 6	21 7 4
Totals ..	995	12,837 19 5	278	4,248 17 6	83 11 2½	15,740 11 10	76 7 8	3 18 7	77 19 4

Parcel Post.

	Ordinary.	Insured.	Total Value.
Coomassie	6,225	345	£27,384 10 6
Obuasi	1,072	44	3,420 4 0

Mail Matter Received and Forwarded.

No. of letters, etc, posted.....346,440.

No. of letters delivered.....;.....409,284.

RELIGIONS.

78. The following Missions have establishments in Ashanti.

Church of England.—

1 Archdeacon
1 Priest

with Native Assistants.

Roman Catholic.—

2 European Priests
7 Native Teachers
146 Members.

Wesleyan.—

1 European Minister
2 Native Ministers
20 Catechists
1,207 Members.

Scottish Mission.—

1 European Missionary
3 Native Ministers
20 Catechists
11 Monitors
1,529 Members.

Seventh Day Adventists.—

1 Minister (European)
1 Licenciate
179 Members.

Zion Mission.—

1 Missionary Pastor
334 Members.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

Motor Roads.

79. The following is a list of motor roads constructed in Ashanti:—

1. Coomassie	to	Prang	120 Miles	
2. Ejura	„	Nkoranza	37 „	
3. Nkoranza	„	Kintampo	40 „	
4. Nkoranza	„	Tekiman	16 „	
5. Tekiman	„	Wenchi	20 „	Under Construction.

6. Ntonsu	„	Effiduasie and Juaben ..	17	Miles.
7. Mampon	„	Nsuta and Effiduasie ..	12	„
8. Coomassie	„	Nkawe	15	„
9. Coomassie	„	Akropong	9	„
10. Akropong	„	Nkawe Road..	3	„
11. Coomassie	„	Dentin	20	„
12. Offinsu	„	Bremeng	3	„
13. Coomassie	„	Ejisu, Juaso and Bompata	51	„
14. Coomassie	„	Akontuansi and Lake Busumtwi ..	20	„
15. Ejisu	„	Akontuansi	12	„
16. Coomassie	„	Bekwai	22	„
17. Bekwai	„	Kokofu, Ahuri and Abodom via Amoaful		Under Construction.
18. Akrokerri	„	Dompoasi and Fomenah ..	10	Miles.
19. Akrokerri	„	Jacobu	6	„

Chiefs' Roads.

80. In addition to these motor roads, the whole of Ashanti is covered with a net-work of roads that are suitable for traders and travellers in hammock.

81. Of the motor roads mentioned above Nos. 1, 2, and 6 are under the Public Works Department. They were exceedingly well maintained throughout the year.

82. The others consist of pioneer roads made by the natives with the assistance of the Commissioners and the Public Works Department, in putting in bridges and culverts.

They have been well maintained and have proved of the greatest benefit to the country.

83. No fewer than 9540 cars used the main Coomassie-Ejura road with a total car mileage of 572,870 miles, an increase over the preceding year of 150,000 miles. The upkeep of this road, which is the main artery to the North, cost £5,614.

84. The cost of pioneer roads varies very much. It may be said to average about £10 per mile.

Motor Roads Constructed During the Year.

85.

	Completed.	Partially Completed.
Coomassie District	4¼ miles.	43¾ miles.
Ejura	11 „	—
Ashanti Akim	6½ „	14½
Northern Province	10 „	—
Southern Province	10 „	—
	41¾ miles.	68¼ miles.

Owing to lack of funds and the difficulty in getting surveys made, work on construction of new roads was not proceeded with as vigorously as usual.

Railway.

86. The railway has 67½ miles of track in Ashanti, from the Ofin River bridge to Coomassie.

87. Passenger traffic outward amounted to 151,338 of the value of £28,001, as compared with 116,099 in 1918 and 131,467 in 1917.

The figures as to passengers inward have not been supplied this year, but it may be safely assumed that they show a similar increase.

88. 13,756 tons of outward traffic and 37,883 of inward traffic were handled during the year.

These figures are exclusive of inter-station firewood traffic, which is very large at Obuasi.

89. The following comparative table shows the principal articles of export:—

	1918.	1919.
Kola	2,877 tons	2,977 tons.
Corn	463	384
Hides	270	108
Rubber ..	645	32
Cocoa	18,023	31,944

Transport Department.

90. *Coomassie Station.*

	1918.	1919.
Loads despatched by railway	301	448
Loads despatched to Northern Territories by carriers direct	77	131
Carriers with Officers to Northern Territories	16	228
Loads despatched by carriers to places in Ashanti	1,652	846
Carriers with Officers in Ashanti (including troops)	577	474
Passengers to Ejura and other places by motor	587	615
Loads to Ejura and other places by motor ..	3,375	5,751
Loads delivered in Coomassie	1,868	1,566
Loads moved belonging to Officers, arriving and departing	553	2,029
Mails moved to and from railway station, bags and baskets	4,721	5,224

	1918.	1919.
Carriers sent out with bags of mails	77	79
Bags of mails by motor to Ejura..	593	586
Carriers engaged on contract for local purposes	256	150
Number of cars sent out	331	426

EJURA STATION.

Up traffic to Yeji, etc.

	1918.	1919.
Loads by carriers	3,244	1,240
Loads by motor	Not recorded	1,176
Carriers with Officers	576	Nil
Loads of mails	460	586
Loads delivered and moved in Ejura	942	978
Passengers by motor	Not recorded	245
Passengers personal baggage by motor ..	60	395

Down traffic to Coomassie.

Loads by motor	359	711
Passengers by motor	1,052	1,070
Passengers personal baggage by motor ..	1,105	1,032
Mails	359	376
Carriers with Officers	Nil	Nil

ATTABUBU STATION.

Up traffic to Yegi, etc.

Loads by carriers	1,447	2,433
Carriers with Officers	436	466
Carriers with mails	152	504
Loads delivered in Attabubu	Nil	53

Down traffic to Coomassie.

	1918.	1919.
Loads by motor	49	521
Passengers by motor	139	71
Passengers personal baggage	136	400
Carriers with Officers	324	207
Loads by carriers	159	140

VETERINARY.

91. The Veterinary Officer reports as follows:—

Cattle.—During the year 1919, 6,915 head of cattle were imported into Coomassie bringing in a revenue as Kraal Fees of £172 17s. 6d. Of this number 15 head of cattle were stopped and died in detention. The average price of cattle for the year was £10 although during the last quarter prices

advanced considerably many animals being sold for £20 or more. 3,048 cattle were slaughtered in the Coomassie Abattoir for human consumption and 2,263 cattle were exported by railway, also 1,589 head of cattle were exported by road. This increase in exportation by road is attributed to high price of cattle and high railway freight leaving a small profit when conveyed by rail to stations on the railway.

Sheep and Goats.—During 1919, 1,170 sheep and 324 goats were exported by railway, and 204 sheep and 224 goats were exported by road.

Tours of Inspection in Ashanti.—One tour of inspection was made in Ashanti in the North portion of Ashanti into Gaman and Banda country. 789 head of cattle were inspected and the herds were healthy. This figure shows a mortality of about 50% for the epidemic of rinderpest during 1918. In this district there is a considerable decrease in pig breeding which is to be regretted.

Live Stock Farm, Coomassie.—On 31st December there were 23 head of cattle on the Live-Stock Farm. During the year three pints of fresh milk have been supplied daily to European Officers of the Government Service. An attempt has been made with success to make butter and cheese.

Coomassie Town.

92. The following comparative Table shows the town revenue collected in 1919:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
1. Rents of Town Plots.. ..	£2,929	£2,928	£3,591
2. Rents, Zongo Plots	877	1,024	1,087
3. Rents, Segregation Area ..	Nil	Nil	27
4. Rents, Market	284	279	269
5. Slaughter House Fees ..	753	933	541
6. Kraal Fees	257	271	173
7. Spirit Licences	2,200	1,770	1,379
8. Beer Licences	4	2	10
9. Restaurant Licences	30	—	60
10. Occasional Licences	2	—	9
11. Dog Licences	43	27	31
12. Auctioneer's Licences ..	—	30	20

	1918.	1919.
1. Building permits granted	53	103
2. New Leases	6	96
3. Leases cancelled	7	43

The large increase in 1 and 2 are due to the new lay-outs. The district of Asafu was expropriated and turned into merchants' premises thus accounting for the number of leases cancelled.

93. *Expropriation of Asafu.*—This quarter of old Coomassie consisted of a mass of dilapidated huts, which had been allowed to accumulate in past days owing to their distance from the centre. The town, however, extended in this direction and rendered it necessary to relay out this district. The leases were cancelled, the existing huts liberally compensated for, and the occupants allotted properly laid-out plots outside the business area.

The whole of Asafu is now re-let to Mercantile firms who are putting up handsome, substantial houses and factories on it. The streets in this quarter are now being properly formed and drained.

94. *Improvement of Bantama.*—This old historic village, lying beyond Cantonments, consisted of a muddled mass of huts. With the consent of the paramount Chief and people, a wide road has been made through it and a complete lay-out undertaken. Houses pulled down were compensated for and the new village is rapidly springing up and will be a credit to the town.

The legal work done by the Police Magistrate will be found in another section of this report. This officer has executive charge also of the town, and takes complete charge of its administration.

95. Particulars as to Schools, Missions, Public Institutions will be found elsewhere.

96. Population.

Europeans—Officials	50
,, Non-Officials	103
Ladies	14
Syrians, about	100
Native, estimated from	24,000 to 26,000

97. The food supply was unsatisfactory, market prices are fixed monthly by the Police Magistrate assisted by the Chiefs and market dealers. Supplies, however, were short and dear. The abnormal prices charged in the stores by merchants caused the local foodstuff sellers to raise their prices correspondingly.

98. Considerable progress was made in laying out new areas for occupation, many hundreds of plots being marked out and roads formed round them. They have been rapidly taken up.

Water Supply.

99. Water for Europeans is taken from a well known as Prempeh's well and carried in drums to the houses.

Natives obtain their supply from a series of wells spread over the town.

Much anxiety was felt towards the end of the year at the shortage of water caused by the drought. Arrangements were begun to build a pipe-borne supply and to make new wells as a stop-gap measure.

Obuasi Town.

100. The management and sanitation of Obuasi, the headquarters of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, are undertaken by a committee composed of Government Officials and the Mines Authorities.

The town collects its own revenue from the mine labourers and residents, also from licences, market dues, etc.

Revenue amounted to £6,358 as compared with £6,224 in 1918.

Expenditure amounted to £6,535 as compared with £7,767, the decrease being accounted for by the fact that the drainage scheme which was being carried out from accumulated balances was discontinued during the year.

Public Works.

101. No public works of importance were undertaken during the year, with the exception of a garage for mechanical transport which was completed.

The usual recurrent work of repairs, renewals, etc. was properly carried out.

The road work done by the Department is noted elsewhere. Buildings generally were kept in fair repair, and the department efficiently conducted. During the year the Transport Department was shut down as a separate entity and transferred to the Public Works Department.

Native Affairs.

102. Relations between the Government and the Chiefs and their peoples continue to be most satisfactory.

Central Province.

103. *Coomassie District.*—Agona Division. Dissension between the Omanhene and his people continued during the year. Efforts to reconcile them were not successful.

Ejisu Division.

Omanhene Kweku Duko was destooled by his people and Kobina Wusu put on the stool on probation.

Ofinsu Division.

Dissensions occurred towards the end of the year, which rendered an enquiry necessary.

Ejura District.

The Omanhene of Attabubu was confirmed on his stool. Minor disputes occurred at Afiduasie and Asokori over stool debts, but otherwise the district was quiet.

Ashanti Akim District.

Kumawu Division.—The aftermath of the long continued discord continued during the year, but matters are generally settling down, and the young men have now all consented to return.

The other divisions of this district were quiet and well conducted.

Southern Province.

104. *Bekwai.*—A disturbance between the Bekwais and the Moshis residing in the town resulted in the latter being driven into a House and fired upon. Ten or twelve were killed and seventeen wounded. The Omanhene was brought to trial, sentenced to three years imprisonment and fined £500. A new Omanhene was put on the stool. Adansi was ruled well and quietly.

Kokofu.—This division was quiet, except for a quarrel with Assacheri which was quickly settled.

Northern Province.

105. Great progress was made in settling tribal boundaries, those between Nkoranza and Mo and Tekiman being delimited, also those between Banda and Mo.

The Province was quiet and orderly throughout the year.

Western Province.

106. Except for minor quarrels the province was quiet. The Omanhene of Ahafo resigned, and Kojo Darkun formerly a cocoa instructor was put in his place.

GENERAL.

107. The year was one of great prosperity, which affected all classes.

108. Cocoa kept at a high price all through the season and reached an unprecedented price towards the end of the year.

109. The want of silver and small change caused much unrest and annoyance, but on understanding the reason the people for the most part accepted notes philosophically, and hastened to get rid of them by buying European goods.

Throughout the year Currency Notes were purchased for silver at a large discount, and it was found very difficult to bring the offence home.

OCCURRENCES.

110. The dependency was visited by the Governor and Lady Clifford in January and by General Guggisberg the new Governor in October.

111. Sir Francis Fuller, the Chief Commissioner retired in October after fifteen years service in Ashanti.

He was much respected by the people and his departure was made the occasion of a demonstration in his honour. He had shortly previously received the honour of Knighthood.

112. The declaration of peace was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

COST OF LIVING AND WAGES.

113. The cost of living for Europeans has increased over 100%, both imported and local foodstuffs having increased in price to that extent.

114. Wages have increased in consequence, and unskilled labour now receives 1/6 per diem, generally with allowance which brings it up to 2s.

115. There is a serious labour shortage which hinders development and is now affecting the mines.

PROSPECTS OF FUTURE TRADE.

116. The outlook is most promising. The national richness of the country, its fertility and above all the keen commercial instinct of the Ashanti, ensures it a prosperous future.

117. There is no opening for Europeans, except those employed from home.

118. Planting of any sort by European companies has not as yet proved itself, and it is doubtful whether under the most favourable conditions it can be made to pay.

ARTHUR J. PHILBRICK,

Acting Chief Commissioner of Ashanti.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar	1919–1920
1051	Somaliland	1919–1920
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
1055	Malta	,,
1056	Swaziland	1919–1920
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

Gt. Brit. Colonial office.
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ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1058.)

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FINANCIAL.

1. The Revenue and Expenditure of Ashanti is pooled with that of the Gold Coast Colony and that of the Protectorate of the Northern Territories. It is worth while, however, to endeavour to arrive at some idea of the financial position of Ashanti by considering certain items of the more important branches of Revenue and Expenditure, such as can be directly allocated to Ashanti, or can be made the subject of fairly reasonable calculation.

Revenue.

2. Local receipts amounted to £57,200. The most important items were the following :—

	£
Firearms and Ammunition Licences ..	5,500
Spirit Licences	5,600
Court Fines, etc.	6,300
Stamp Duties, etc.	2,650
Rent of Government Lands	6,200
Mining Royalties	22,000

3. The bulk of the Revenue of the Gold Coast, however, comes from Customs Duties and Railway Receipts.

4. As regards imports, it has been possible through the good offices of the Customs Department at Seccondee to obtain statistics of goods entered through the port of Seccondee and consigned to Ashanti. For the extra labour the collection of the information has involved my thanks are due to the Head of the Customs Department at Seccondee.

5. Spirit duties are not kept apart from other specific duties, and to arrive at separate figures entailed the examination of 18,651 Customs entries. The result shows that for 1920, the duties collected at Seccondee on goods passing to Ashanti, were as follows :—

Spirits	£34,660
Other Duties	297,540
Total	£332,200

6. As regards the only dutiable exports in 1920, Cocoa, the quantity railed from stations in Ashanti reached a total of 37,500 tons. An export tax of ½d. per lb. on this quantity brings in a revenue of £175,000.

7. The outwards and inwards railway traffic, passengers and goods, of Ashanti stations is a matter of record. A fair estimate of the proportion of gross receipts, directly assignable to Ashanti, is reported to be £181,000.

8. To sum up, therefore, the Revenue of Ashanti, from the sources discussed in the foregoing paragraphs was for the year 1920, as follows :—

Local Receipts	£57,200
Duty on Spirits	34,660
Other Import Duties	297,540
Export Duty on Cocoa	175,000
Railway Receipts	181,000
Total	£745,400

It must be borne in mind, however, as regards imports and exports that the Seccondee-Coomassie Railway, though the principal, is not the only channel of communication between Ashanti and the sea, for there is a certain amount of traffic of which no statistics are obtainable by road between the Eastern borders of Ashanti and the Gold Coast Colony. It must also be remembered that a share of the Revenue from Posts and Telegraphs, estimated at £89,000 for the whole of the Gold Coast, and a share also of the Interest on General Account estimated at £150,000, must be credited to Ashanti.

Expenditure.

9. The principal branches of Expenditure are :—

Administration, Political and Judicial.
Railways.
Public Works.
Sanitation.
Transport.

10. The actual expenditure on Administration, including Personal Emoluments, amounted during the year to £30,000.

11. As regards the Ashanti share of Railway Expenditure, including working expenses and all interest Charges on loan works, a fair approximate figure is considered to be £130,000.

12. The expenditure for Ashanti on Public Works Personal Emoluments was not separately recorded. Other Public Works Expenditure was as follows :—

Other Charges	£2,300
Recurrent	28,900
Extraordinary	50,000

A proportion, not easily extracted, of the expenditure on the Coomassie-Tamale road under Extraordinary is properly chargeable to the Northern Territories.

13. The expenditure on Sanitation amounted to £12,500.

14. The expenditure on Transport, exclusive of the cost of new cars and lorries, amounted to £12,000.

15. The items set out in the preceding paragraphs are the principal branches of expenditure in Ashanti, and they amount to a total of £265,700. There are, however, various other branches of expenditure of which shares must be debited to Ashanti, but which it is difficult or which it has not been the practice to allocate directly. The heaviest charges during 1920, would probably be on account of Posts and Telegraphs, Gold Coast Regiment, Police, and Public Debt Charges.

Financial Position.

16. Taking all the factors into consideration it would appear that the financial position of Ashanti is generally satisfactory, and that during 1920 there was a fairly handsome contribution from Ashanti towards the development of the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories Protectorate.

Trade.

17. The main sea port for Ashanti is Seccondee, but trade for Ashanti passes also through Accra, Winnebah, Saltpond, and Cape Coast. As already pointed out no separate and complete statistics of goods entering Ashanti are obtainable, and no reliable record, therefore, exists of the consumption by Ashantis of imported articles. The goods traffic, however, from the port of Seccondee to stations in Ashanti on the Seccondee-Coomassie line is recorded, and in 1920 amounted to 30,700 tons, as against 17,400 tons in 1919.

18. The export traffic from stations in Ashanti to Seccondee, amounted to 43,471 tons as against 37,300 tons, in 1919. The traffic is mainly in Cocoa and Kola, the totals being 37,500 tons and 3,000 tons respectively.

19. The export of hides and skins by railway was valued at £15,000, as against £7,000 in 1919.

Agriculture.

20. There is an important Agricultural Station at Coomassie, a Sub-station at Juasc, the Headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District in the Eastern Province of Ashanti, and a new Sub-station, opened during the year, at Ejura, also in the Eastern Province on the Coomassie-Tamale motor road.

Coomassie.

21. At the Coomassie station various interesting experiments were pursued in connection with the yield of cocoa, coffee, and rubber trees, the rotation of crops, the treatment of disease, etc. A full record of the experimental and scientific work finds its place in the Annual Report of the Agricultural Department, but it is interesting to note here that, in the course of experiments the yield of cocoa per tree, ten years old, was found to be just over 4lbs., and that the cost, excluding supervision, of preparing rubber to be put on rail worked out at a fraction under 1s. 1d. per lb.

22. There was no great demand for cocoa pods or plants during the year only 54 pods and 250 plants being sold. One thousand Para rubber seeds and 127,000 miscellaneous plants were distributed free. Eighty-two persons are officially recorded as visiting the Station during the year.

23. The rainfall was below the average being 25·90 inches for the year. June was the wettest month with a fall of 10·81 inches, and January the driest with a fall of 0·10.

Juaso

24. At the Juaso Sub-station the area under cultivation is 32¾ acres, mainly with cocoa, coffee, rubber, kola, and foodstuffs.

Seventy-two farmers visited the Station, but there was no demand for plants.

The rainfall was 53·32 inches. The wettest month being July with 6·52 inches, and the driest December with 0·21 inches.

Ejura.

25. At Ejura, 50 acres with a frontage on the high road were taken up for the new Station, and during the year 11½ acres were planted with different varieties of hill rice.

26. The expenditure on the upkeep of the Coomassie Station was £970, on the Juaso Station £200, and on the new station at Ejura £300.

27. The activities of the Department are not, however, confined to work on the Agricultural Stations. The Senior Superintendent, who was absent on leave for seven months of the year, the Superintendent, and the two Travelling Instructors made frequent tours through the districts, instructing the farmers on various subjects; the preparation of cocoa, the cultivation of rubber, kola, rice, and other products; and advising generally as to the crops suitable for planting in the differing types of soil and country. About 800 visits were paid during the year to various villages. This itinerant instruction is on practical lines. Meetings in the villages are held under the auspices of the Chief and Headmen, farms are visited, improvements suggested and disease treated, and a demonstration is given, for example, on the proper method of fermentation. Beneficial results from these visits are perhaps slow in manifesting themselves. One finds, however, in the diaries of the Travelling Instructors notes such as "great willingness of the farmers to take one to their farms." "The farmers expressed thanks for the advice given, and were very attentive at the meetings."

It is something therefore that the visits are no longer viewed with suspicion and alarm, but are welcomed and that the meetings attract a large and often highly interested audience. It must, however, be borne in mind that hitherto the returns to the cocoa industry have usually been very easy money, and that there is a large element of speculation about the price. For the day of high prices or of the prospect of them the existing casual methods of the

cultivation of cocoa and its preparation seem sufficient, but when prices reach a stable and more reasonable level, the more intelligent and capable farmers are likely to study improved methods and to apply with greater diligence the teaching of the Agricultural Officers. Even now it is remarked that in some districts the cocoa farms as regards cleaning are receiving better because personal attention for the reason that the farmers unable to afford the high rate of wages for labour are themselves with their families working on the land.

Cocoa.

28. The middle season crop was small, but the main crop was up to the average.

29. Insects and fungoid pests were prevalent. There were, it must be admitted, few signs that the farmers generally were ready to take energetic measures to deal with these pests. In some cases the farms were allowed to revert to " bush " when either they would become entirely ruined or the trees would recover and the farm be taken up again. *Sahlbergella Helopeltis* and *Thrip* were particularly rampant. The spread of Brown pod disease was assisted by the neglect of the farmers to pick ripe pods, and by the late rains which favoured the growth of the fungus which is the prime cause of the evil. A more enlightened generation of farmers must appear before comprehensive measures for dealing with plant diseases can be undertaken with any chance of success.

30. The quality of the cocoa shows no sign of improvement. This is not altogether a matter for surprise or reproach. There has been a very strong demand hitherto for the local quality, and as there is room in the wine industry both for vin ordinaire and vintage claret, there seems to be room in the cocoa industry for different qualities of cocoa.

In any case the improvement of the quality of cocoa is not such a formidable problem as the sanitation of the farms.

31. At the beginning of the season prices ruled high, but it was not long before they fell with a crash. It is probable, however, that all the cocoa within easy reach of motor or rail transport was brought to the buying centres in spite of the low price. In less accessible districts it could not be marketed. The low price was not an unmixed evil. It put an effective check on the clearing of new areas for cocoa planting, a tendency which the earnest exhortations of the Agricultural Officers had failed to keep in bounds. A low price also will confine cocoa farming to the neighbourhood of motor and rail transport, and will discourage planting in remote regions where the industry can be profitable only in seasons of high prices. It is satisfactory to note, particularly in the case of large farms, that many of the farmers have kept their heads during the slump, and have not neglected to look after their farms.

32. The quantity of cocoa railed from Ashanti stations was 37,500 tons. This quantity, however, does not represent the total of the Ashantis' crop during the year, for a proportion of the cocoa from the richest planting area finds its way to the seaport by the road out of Ashanti to the Accra railway, and does not therefore appear in the Ashanti Return.

Kola.

33. Increased attention has been devoted during the year to the cultivation of kola, especially to the white variety.

The area under cultivation has increased and in some villages nurseries of young plants have been established. The kola industry is not one which calls for much effort from the farmers. Hitherto little more is needed or at any rate has been done than to clear round the trees before harvesting in order to facilitate the gathering of the crops. The kola industry has this advantage over the cocoa industry that it is independent of the vagaries of the European markets.

34. The quantity of kola carried by train from Ashanti stations was 3,000 tons. The quantity passing North is reported to be far in excess of the previous year. The price is said to be double what it was some years ago and is now 15s. to 20s. a load or 100 nuts for 9d.

Rice.

35. The cultivation of rice for local consumption is being taken up with keenness, especially in the Ejura District, where dry land rice is planted, mainly by immigrants from the Northern Territories. The yield is small. In the neighbourhood of Coomassie, areas from ten to 20 acres in extent and also small patches are cultivated by Mendis. Low-lying ground is usually selected and the yield is favourable. Rice is also coming into favour at Wenchi, Tekiman, and Kintampo. In the market at the last-named place it fetches 5d. per lb.

Food Crops.

36. Early in the year native foodstuffs became exceedingly scarce and, particularly at cocoa buying centres, commanded exceptionally high prices. Later in the year as the new crops were gathered prices tended to fall, though yams, a staple food, remained at a high price. Throughout the year Political Officers and Officers of the Agricultural Department were at great pains to impress upon the people the urgent need of a larger supply of foodstuffs. These exhortations were heeded for it is reported that a larger area is now under foodstuffs.

37. The victualling of Coomassie with its 20,000 inhabitants was a subject of investigation towards the end of the year. There are fifteen markets held during the week on different days, excepting Mondays and Saturdays, at villages on the various roads leading into Coomassie. The produce changes hands several times before it reaches Coomassie, and the mode of transport from the markets is almost entirely by head-load. Little use is made of the motor lorry, though there are excellent roads in the neighbourhood of Coomassie. Supplies of foodstuffs came also by rail, at one time during the year from as far as Opon Valley in the Gold Coast Colony, and supplies also will be brought by rail from the Eastern portion of Ashanti as sections of the Coomassie-Accra line are opened for traffic. The trade does not appear to be organised in any way, and there are no dealers on a large scale. The

traffic is almost exclusively in the hands of petty traders, mostly women, and a large proportion of the female population in the Coomassie district must be engaged in the daily transport of foodstuffs.

COTTON.

38. The high prices and inferior quality of imported cotton goods have given an impetus to cotton growing especially in the Western Province. Cloths are made of the native cotton and are not merely for local use, but are brought as far as Coomassie for sale.

MINING INDUSTRY.

39. Owing to the high price and scarcity of labour, and to the high prices of materials and food, the year has been one of unremitting difficulty and anxiety for the mining industry.

40. The quantity of fine ounces produced was 70,719 valued at £300,000, as against 100,000 ounces valued at £420,000 in the preceding year. No dredgers were working during the year.

41. The average number employed daily of Europeans was 67 and of Natives 2,500, an increase of 10 Europeans and a decrease of 300 Natives, as compared with 1919.

LEGISLATION.

42. Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year.

Among the most important were :—

No. 5. Applying to Ashanti The Special Constables Ordinance, 1900, as in force in the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 10. Giving to Commissioners within their respective jurisdiction discretion to carry out a sentence or enforce a judgment of a Native Tribunal.

Hitherto this discretion had been reserved to the Chief Commissioner only.

No. 18. Providing for certain changes in procedure under the Commissioners Ordinance, 1907, and for the appointment of Coroners and the holding of Inquests.

Hitherto enquiries as to the cause of death in certain cases had been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Fire and Occurrences Inquiry Ordinance, 1899, of the Gold Coast Colony as applied to Ashanti.

No. 19. Giving to the Circuit Judge the powers of a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony in respect to divorce and matrimonial causes.

Hitherto the Courts of Ashanti had no jurisdiction in such causes.

43. Nine Rules under Ashanti Ordinances were made, of which the most important was No. 6 providing for the registration of cattle in Coomassie.

44. The Orders made under Ashanti Ordinances were three. Order No. 2 provided for the extension of the jurisdiction in Civil cases of the District Commissioners of the Central Province, from £50 to £100. Order No. 3 gave to District Commissioners power to try cases of attempted suicide when such cases could be adequately dealt with by a sentence not exceeding six months.

An Order was made by the Governor revoking the importation of the Spirits Prohibition Regulations, and a Proclamation was issued by the Governor with respect to the new alloy coinage.

EDUCATION.

45. There are three Government Schools in Ashanti, one at Coomassie, one at Sunyani in the Western Province, and one at Juaso the Headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District of the Eastern Province.

46. At the end of the year the number on the roll at Coomassie was 496, at Juaso 138, and at Sunyani 110. At an early date a new Government School at Coomassie on a new site will be necessary, the present buildings are too close to the new railway station and the present site leaves much to be desired. A new site has been selected provisionally and it contains ample space for decent playing fields.

47. Altogether there are about 40 Schools distributed about the Eastern Province, and ten in the Western Province. Coomassie possesses the best facilities for education, but its population is so cosmopolitan that barely 50 per cent. of the School children are Ashantis. Outside Coomassie, and except at Obuasi, Sunyani, and Juaso the Schools are small and the education of a very simple kind.

48. One of the obvious present needs of the Ashanti is a better opportunity on the spot for acquiring something more than the very elementary education of the village School.

The Acting District Commissioner, Kintampo, for instance, writes "There are a number of sawyers, carpenters, bricklayers, and tailors in the bigger villages, but they mostly came from the Gold Coast Colony." This is the case everywhere. The dispensers, surveyors, road overseers, sanitary inspectors, storekeepers, clerks, mechanics, artisans, and so on come as a rule from the Coast. It is true that there are a few Ashanti boys, and their number is increasing, who are sent to Accra and Cape Coast for the educational advantages those towns offer, but until the same advantages are available locally the average Ashanti will not be trained to take much share in certain branches of the development of his country, and is likely to find certain avenues of employment closed to him.

RELIGION.

49. The majority of the inhabitants of Ashanti must still be classed as adherents of their native religion. This has been described by Sir Francis Fuller as "a veneration of ancestors, strongly blended with animism, commonly called fetishism."

50. The tide of progress, however, which has swept over the country in the past few years has loosened the moorings of the ancient religion, and there is little doubt that there would be a very great access of converts to Christianity if the various Missions could seize the opportunities now awaiting them. Mohammedanism does not seem at present to be able to proselytise among the Ashantis, and there is thus a clear field for the Christian Missionary.

51. The Heads of the various Missions speak optimistically of the progress and possibilities of their work, but there is the general lament at the absence of European personnel. It is greatly to be hoped that the ranks of the Missionaries will soon be filled, and that there will be no lack of moral guidance during the unsettling times which it seems the people of Ashanti have now to face.

52. The various Missions established in Ashanti are the following :—

The Seven Day Adventists who have seven Churches and Companies of Believers, and whose members number 283.

The A.M.E. Zion Church with 156 full members and 64 probationers.

The Scottish Mission with 918 communicants and 389 adherents.

The Wesleyan Mission with 8,000 baptised members.

The Roman Catholic Mission with 1,100 converts.

The S.P.G. Mission with a roll of 300 members.

JUDICIAL.

53. There were 3,673 criminal cases heard in the Courts of Ashanti during the year, a decrease of 1,537 on the return for 1919. There were 3,007 convictions, 204 discharges, 58 cases committed for trial, and 433 cases were not proceeded with.

The criminal return includes sanitary cases.

Serious crime was as follows :—

Murder	.. 19
Attempted murder ..	.. 2
Manslaughter	.. 5
Rape and carnal knowledge	.. 11
Robbery with violence ..	.. 11

54. The number of civil cases disposed of during the year was 1,266, a decrease of 513 on the previous year's figures.

55. The busiest Courts are the Court of the Police Magistrate, Coomassie, and the Court of the District Commissioner, Obuasi. In the former 1,487 criminal and 342 civil cases, and in the latter 655 criminal and 450 civil were heard.

56. Court fees and fines amounting to £5,147 during the year, shew an increase of £613 over 1919. The Court of the District Commissioner, Coomassie, heads the list with £2,420, no mean contribution to this total being fines inflicted in connection with disturbances arising over destoolments.

57. The Circuit Judge possesses the criminal and civil jurisdiction formerly vested in the Chief Commissioner. In the case of civil jurisdiction, however, he does not deal with causes or matters to which in his opinion Native Customary Law is principally or substantially applicable. Such cases are still triable by the Chief Commissioner.

58. The Circuit Judge, who was absent on leave until the beginning of February, dealt with 33 civil cases and 102 criminal cases. His jurisdiction in capital cases extends also to the Northern Territories.

CONCESSIONS.

59. Formal notices were filed under Section 9 of the Ashanti Concession Ordinance in respect of 20 concessions taken up during the year.

Five concessions were terminated during the year.

POLICE.

60. The average strength of the Police Force in Ashanti during the year was 155. The number estimated by the 1919 Police Committee as required for Ashanti was 418. It will not be possible for some time to come to reach this standard, but in view of the rapid development of the country a considerable increase of the Force is likely to become necessary in the near future.

61. The detachments at Coomassie and Obuasi have carried out 1,552 prosecutions during the year, and in 82 per cent. of the cases convictions were secured. This means that for every constable in Ashanti, 15 prosecutions have been instituted and 12 convictions have resulted.

62. There were two European Police Officers stationed in Ashanti for most of the year.

The time of one Officer is largely taken up with prosecutions before the Judge. Coomassie itself should have the whole attention of one Officer, and when possible, therefore, an addition to the European personnel of the Force must be made.

PRISONS.

63. In Coomassie Prison there were incarcerated during the year 327 male convict prisoners, six female convict prisoners, 54 male debtor prisoners, and 12 female debtor prisoners. There were eight escapes and one recapture. The health and feeding of the prisoners was good and no complaints were received. The accommodation is not all that could be desired, but it will suffice until the new Central Prison, which it is proposed to establish in Ashanti, can be constructed.

64. There are also Prisons at Obuasi, Juaso, Sunyani, Kintampo, and Ejura. The Prison at Obuasi is the largest of these district Prisons, the number of admissions during the year being 197.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

65. The general health of the European and Native community was on the whole satisfactory.

66. An outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the early part of the year occurred in Northern Ashanti. It was most serious in Nkoranza, Kintampo, and Mo, where 135 deaths were reported. Isolation camps were built and military guards established to prevent any communication with the infected areas. At Wenchi and Tekiman the outbreak did not assume serious proportions.

67. The total number of out-patients at the Coomassie Dispensary was 8,690. The common ailments were venereal disease, bronchial affections, and malaria.

68. The admissions to the Native Hospital at Coomassie were 1,290 with 59 deaths ; and to the European Hospital 149, of whom four died and 11 were invalided. There were three cases of blackwater fever, of which one proved fatal.

69. Outside Coomassie, the Sunyani Dispensary appears to treat the greatest number of patients, for 2,667 were under treatment as out-patients during the year.

At Obuasi, the number of out-patients was reported to be 2,375, at Kintampo 1,777, and at Ejura 745.

SANITATION.

Coomassie.

70. Within the limits of Coomassie there are large areas of unoccupied land the whole of which it is quite out of the question to keep clear. Special attention therefore was paid to open spaces within the town, to the Ridge, and to the neighbourhood of the Colonial Hospital. Over 3½ million square yards were cleared of weeds, etc. by the sanitary labourers in the course of the year.

71. The conservancy system is not altogether satisfactory nor is it expeditious. The night soil is carried in buckets by prisoners to the outskirts of the town and there buried. It was hoped that motor lorries might be available before the end of the year to assist in this service, but owing to unforeseen circumstances it was not possible to give the scheme a trial. In any case, however, the motor lorry scheme is likely to be a good deal more expensive than the present system. House refuse is carried by headload and carts to the incinerators and there burnt. There are 17 incinerators in Coomassie, but the number is no longer adequate. An average of 49 headloads of bottles and tins were disposed of daily.

72. The drainage of Coomassie is likely to remain unsatisfactory until properly constructed drains and a water supply for flushing them can be instituted.

As the Medical Officer of Health reports "The earth drains and gutters, some of them resembling ravines are a constant source of trouble, and although every effort has been made to keep them in a sanitary condition by clearing them of weeds, rubbish, and filth generally and by the liberal use of disinfectants they still remain a constant nuisance to health."

The number of lineal yards of cement drains constructed during the year was 1,849. There is no difficulty in finding an outfall or in the lie of the land, but the cost of cement for the large extent of drainage will be a very heavy charge. A sum of £5,000 was spent on this service during the year. A large proportion of this sum was expended on the layout for trading houses and stores on the Old Asafu Quarter of the Native Town.

73. The number of the house inspections during the year was 17,255, and 826 householders were fined for having mosquito larvae on their premises.

74. The water supply is obtained from wells of the shallow type, and it proved sufficient for the needs of the inhabitants. During 1919, however, the drought caused some anxiety, and it was considered advisable to sink a new well in the neighbourhood of the Odum Wells in the Native Town and to add two storage tanks to the Prempeh Wells, the water supply for Europeans. A certain amount of concreting also was laid down in the area round the wells. The expenditure amounted to £780 and resulted in considerable improvement. A pipe-borne supply is at present under consideration, but the estimated cost reaches a formidable figure.

75. The rainfall approached the normal being 55·90 inches, as compared with the exceptionally low record of 37 inches in 1919.

GENERAL.

76. The Sanitation of Obuasi is in the competent hands of the Town Committee composed of Government Officials and the Mines Authorities. The most important work during the year was the completion of the surface drainage system, which confers a very great boon on the community.

77. In the villages sanitary conditions show considerable improvement. One Political Officer reports "some village Chiefs are so progressive in this respect as to have asked the District Commissioner to replan their villages, and are quite prepared to pull down houses, dig drains, etc. in the cause of sanitation." During a tour in the Western Province, I was very favourably impressed with the aspect of some of the Native villages. There was a broad main street planted each side with trees, and wide side streets. There was everywhere a genuine desire for improved villages, or if improvement was not possible for a new village to be planned by the District Commissioner. The Village Overseers, as a rule Natives from the Coast, superintend the layout and sanitation of villages, and seem to have done excellent work.

78. The number of persons vaccinated was 4,715, of these 1,824 were lost sight of, and among the remainder there were 2,002 successes and 889 failures. There was one case of smallpox recorded during the year.

79. The number of births registered in Coomassie was 63, 37 being males and 26 females. The deaths registered were 230 males and 97 females. It is clearly evident that a number of births are unregistered.

80. The ordinary expenditure exclusive of Personal Emoluments on sanitation in Ashanti amounted to £11,800, the lion's share being spent in Coomassie. The sum of about £9,000 in the nature of Extraordinray expenditure was spent on Sanitary Improvements, almost entirely in Coomassie and Obuasi.

PUBLIC WORKS.

EXTRAORDINARY.

81. The hopes that were entertained of an extensive programme of Public Works during the year were not destined to be completely fulfilled. In view, however, of the decline in revenue which set in towards the end of the year, the disappointment was not perhaps an unmixed evil, and the saving on the Estimates was a welcome one.

82. The Department was faced with difficulties in connection with staff and with a serious dearth of labour skilled and unskilled. At the beginning of the year the competition for the available supply of labour was particularly keen, and at Coomassie the position was not improved by the high price and comparative scarcity of foodstuffs.

83. As regards buildings, the main items of expenditure were on the alteration and addition to the Hospital £2,700, on four new bungalows on the Ridge £9,980, on the extension to the Post Office £2,800, and on quarters for the Agriculture labourers £4,500. These works were far advanced at the end of the year.

84. As regards roads the principal items were on the Chief Commissioner's programme £6,700, and on the road from Attebubu to Yegi and beyond £9,500, a portion of which is chargeable against the Northern Territories.

85. As regards sanitary improvements the chief items of expenditure were surface drainage, Coomassie £5,300, and the drainage scheme, Obuasi £2,000.

86. The amount provided in the Estimates and by Special Warrant for Extraordinary Works under the Public Works Department and the Chief Commissioner was :—

Buildings	£35,000
Sanitary Improvements	11,000
Roads	24,000
	£70,000

The actual expenditure was :—

Buildings	£24,700
Sanitary Improvements	8,700
Roads	16,700
	£50,100

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

87. The Transport Department serves both Ashanti and the Northern Territories. The Mechanical Section placed a great strain on the energy and optimism of the Officers who from time to time have been in charge of the Department.

88. At the beginning of the year there were a few old vehicles with which an intermittent service was maintained between Coomassie and Ejura. In July the service was reorganised and a relay service was established between Coomassie and Tamale with intermediate stations at Ejura, Prang, and Salaga. The traffic, however, far exceeded expectations and the position was further accentuated by the shortage of lorries. Stores accumulated at Headquarters and in the case of private loads the congestion meant considerable personal inconvenience.

89. The number of the lorries on charge at the end of the year was 48, but there had been little opportunity for thorough overhauling with the result that few of them were really efficient, and a considerable proportion not fit for the road. The average number of drivers was 36. They needed constant supervision which was rarely possible owing to the shortage of staff.

90. The number of carriers employed by the Department amounted to 200, distributed between Coomassie and Yegi.

91. The number of loads despatched from Coomassie by lorry was 8,052, and the number of loads coming into Coomassie by lorry from Ejura, 3,130, as against 5,751 and 1,743 in 1919. The number of loads despatched by railway from Coomassie was 1,300, an increase of 850 on the 1919 total. The number of head loads passing out of Coomassie was 1,450, a decrease of 330 compared with 1919. The number of cars sent out from Coomassie was 900, more than double the number in 1919.

92. The expenditure on mechanical transport for wages to drivers, fitters, etc. was £2,500, and for petrol, oil, etc. £4,170. The expenditure on the wages of overseers, carriers, etc. amounted to £5,750. A proportion of this expenditure, however, is debited to the Northern Territories Administration.

93. The Rest House at Coomassie is under the charge of the Transport Officer. On the ground floor is a dining room and a baggage store ; the former for the time being has been used as a store for the accumulation of loads awaiting transport to the Northern Territories. The first floor contains four bed rooms and the compound contains one kitchen. The accommodation

is quite inadequate for the number of officials now passing through Coomassie, and a large draft is made on the hospitality of the permanent residents. From time to time also one or more of the rooms have to be occupied as quarters for officers stationed in Coomassie.

ROADS.

94. 33 miles of motor road were constructed and opened for traffic during the year. The construction was carried out by Chiefs and people under the supervision of native road overseers responsible to, and paid by, the District Commissioner. Bridges and culverts were built by carpenters, masons, etc., and with materials paid for by the Government. On one section of road, a difficult stretch of 14 miles between Bompata and Kwahu Praso, valuable assistance was rendered by the Pioneer Company of the Gold Coast Regiment, in supervising construction and in the building of bridges and culverts. This section will be particularly valuable as a service road for the Accra-Coomassie Railway construction; it is also one of the last links to be completed in the motor road connections between Coomassie and Accra. There are also stretches of motor road constructed which are awaiting the erection of bridges before they can be brought into the motor road system.

95. Happily there is no reluctance on the part of the people to turn out on road construction in their own Divisions. Indeed, the difficulty is to curb their impatience and enthusiasm, else as, sometimes happens, they will launch themselves forth on some impossible project ending at their boundary in a wall of "bush." The unsuspecting Political Officer then finds that it is considered up to him to see that the road is carried on through neighbouring Divisions over hills and rivers to the ultimate goal, a cocoa buying centre. For it is not a natural instinct for pick and shovel work, nor sheer love of physical exertion, that inspires these efforts, but a very keen business sense of the fact that a motor road means a market or a higher price for their cocoa. To a population, moreover, of gregarious habits a motor road is a great boon, for it brings and keeps them in close touch with a larger world. Villages situated a mile or two from the main road will have feeder roads leading to them, or if natural obstacles prevail, the village will be transplanted from its old site and set astride the motor road.

96. Altogether there are 450 miles of motor road open for traffic in Ashanti. The Public Works Department are responsible for the maintenance of about 150 miles, the remainder being maintained by the Chiefs under the supervision of District Commissioners. The responsibility for maintenance is a heavy and harrassing one, for many of the roads are of the Pioneer type, fine weather roads with bridges and culverts built for light traffic only.

97. The development of trade, however, has put upon many of these roads a strain which they were not primarily intended to bear, and it is possible that regulations supplementary to those already existing will be necessary

to provide for the occasional suspension of traffic, and for the use of a light type of lorry on certain roads, until such time as these roads can be improved and the bridges and culverts strengthened, or replaced.

98. In addition to motor roads there is a large extent throughout Ashanti of hammock or cycle roads. These roads are maintained under the District Commissioner's road overseers by the inhabitants of the Division through which they run.

A sum of approximately £26,500 was spent on the construction and maintenance of roads, including motor roads and hammock roads. The fact must be faced that the increasing extent of motor roads in Ashanti means an accumulating liability in the future for maintenance, and it is to be hoped that the inhabitants will show for maintenance some of the enthusiasm they have now for construction.

99. The number of new motor licenses during the year was 46 cars, 210 lorries, 43 motor cycles, 121 trailers, and seven side cars. The total number of motor vehicles licensed is 122 cars, 440 lorries, 139 motor cycles, 308 trailers and 25 side cars.

100. On certain portions of the motor roads maintained by the Public Works Department a record of mileage during the last four months of the year was kept. On the stretch from Coomassie to Mampon, 35 miles, the car mileage during those four months was 173,264, and the number of motor vehicles 1,987, on the stretch from Mampon to Ejura, 30 miles, the car mileage was 28,050, and the number of motor vehicles 561, and from Ntonsu to Effidiasi, 15 miles, the car mileage was 35,740, and the number of motor vehicles 1,787. The road in respect of which these statistics were collected is part of the great North road to Tamale, as far as Ejura, the finest motor road in the country, and maintained in excellent condition.

RAILWAY.

101. The goods traffic outwards carried during the year from Ashanti was 43,470 tons, of which 28,000 tons were despatched from Coomassie.

The chief commodities were :—

Cocoa	..	..	..	37,500 tons.
Kola	..	..	..	3,000 tons.

The goods traffic inwards carried to Ashanti stations amounted to 30,700 tons, of which 18,500 tons were consigned to Coomassie. There was a considerable increase in the quantity of fish brought by rail into Ashanti, 1,500 tons, as against 819 tons in 1919, and the import of gin and other spirits rose from 467 tons to 560 tons.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

102. The construction of the Accra-Coomassie Railway was resumed in February, after some years suspension. Considerable difficulty was

experienced at first with regard to labour, but the slump in the cocoa industry very materially improved the labour conditions, and at the end of the year there was no lack of supply.

103. Clearing was extended for 23 miles, earthworks for 15 miles, and rails laid for a distance of 6½ miles from Coomassie. Work has also been started on the new Coomassie Station, and on the station yards at Fumesa, Ejessu, and Boankra.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

104. The number of telegrams passing between Ashanti and the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories was 67,066, an increase over the previous year of 13,745.

The number of cablegrams received and despatched amounted to 2,928 a decrease of over one thousand, compared with 1919, the decrease due probably to the slump in trade.

105. The number of Money Orders issued at Coomassie amounted to 1,229, as compared with 532 in 1919, the number paid was 489, as against 211 in 1919. At Obuasi the comparative figures were, Money Orders issued 765, as against 463 in 1919, and 536 paid, as against 67 in 1919. The total amount of money represented by the Orders issued was £25,980, as against £12,840 in 1919, and by the Orders paid £4,752, as against £4,248 in 1919. The increase in Money Orders issued has not been fully explained, but there is a large Parcel Post service and, moreover, a good deal of money must be remitted by Coast natives in Ashanti to their families in the Gold Coast Colony.

106. The value of Postage Stamps sold amounted to £24,245, as against £15,740 in 1919. The parcels posted numbered at Coomassie 2,952, and at Obuasi 393, the number of parcels delivered was at Coomassie 24,248, and at Obuasi 2,346. The figures for 1919 are not available.

107. The Post and Telegraph service was satisfactorily maintained throughout the year.

Savings Bank.

108. The Post Office Savings Bank has branches at Coomassie and Obuasi. At Coomassie the deposits were 226, in Obuasi 297; the withdrawals in Coomassie 197 in Obuasi 182; the new accounts opened were 44 in Coomassie and 46 in Obuasi. There is a considerable decrease in the Savings Bank business at Coomassie, possibly some of it has been transferred to the two Banks.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

109. The year has been marked by the culmination into destoolment of disputes and dissensions in various important Divisions. In some cases the exasperation of the Sub-Chiefs and young men found vent in the infliction of serious harm on the person of the Head Chief. This was the case at Offinsu and Kumawu, where the Head Chiefs were severely mauled, and had to spend a month in hospital for the treatment of their injuries. At Bekwai

and Denjiasi, the outlying villages under their Chiefs and with their youngmen marshalled under their company captains invaded the Head Chiefs' towns. At Bekwai the Head Chief succeeded in making good his escape, and at Denjiasi the timely appearance of the Provincial Commissioner prevented any serious outrage. At Agogo and Aguna, violence was threatened at one time, but wiser counsels prevailed and the case was brought to the Government.

The Head Chiefs of these various Divisions were declared destooled, and at the same time heavy punishment was inflicted on those guilty of riot, and in the case of Offinsu, of arson, and of grievous bodily harm on the person of the Head Chiefs. At Wenchi, a determined attempt was made by the Queen Mother to destool the Head Chief. The attempt was frustrated but the Stool was carried away and concealed.

110. One common feature in these destoolments is the charge of mal-administration of Stool revenues. There is no proper system of dealing with these revenues, and most of the Stools are in debt, and have been so for years. In not a few instances the Stool is offered to a candidate who undertakes to defray the Stool debt. In the case of Kumawu, this procedure was followed, but the new Head Chief succeeded in persuading the Sub-Chief to sign a document making themselves personally responsible for the re-imbursement to him on his destoolment or death of his expenditure. He also proceeded to levy heavy fines and fees in order to recoup himself for his outlay. There are also charges that the Chief violates native custom; that he breaks the laws to which he assented on his enstoolment; that he does not add to the Stool property; and that he does not keep up appearances.

In the case of Bekwai, for instance, the "youngmen," that is to say the lower classes, those who were not Elders, complained that they were not consulted in the choice of the Head Chief, that they did not regard him as a credit to the Stool, that people did not respect him in Bekwai itself, or when he visited his villages, and to a man they refused to serve him. The Elders remarked that "One cannot be a Chief without subjects. If we support the Head Chief we shall be alone. The whole of the youngmen refuse to serve the Head Chief and we support them." A few days afterwards there followed the unanimous election of a new Head Chief; a youth of agreeable manners and presence, educated and a Christian, who is shaping well on the Stool.

On behalf of the Chiefs it must be said that they are elected to Stools which are often in debt, that their current expenses are heavy, especially in the way of entertainment, for they have to keep open house for their subjects, and they are expected to make a brave show on ceremonial occasions, while their subjects resent any demand upon them for pecuniary assistance.

111. As regards "Palavers" before the Chief Commissioner, there have been three important cases of paramountcy where the rights of the paramount Chief have been challenged or where the demand is to transfer allegiance to some other Chief or Head Chief, or to serve the Government direct. To allow repudiation or transfer of allegiance, however, at will and without just cause, will lead to disruption and chaos in the native organization. The decision given was—:

That transfer of allegiance will only be permitted in exceptional cases or when both parties agree.

That to paramount Chiefs are to be rendered such services and dues as are sanctioned by native custom, are reasonably demanded, and are not repugnant to natural justice, equity, and good conscience.

That Government will punish any contumacious refusal to perform such services.

112. An important case was decided in the Chief Commissioner's Court in connection with cocoa tribute. A Chief claimed the 1d. per tree tribute from a community of Ashantis who had been settled on his land for about 200 years, and who originally paid tribute of 12 yams, two pots of palm oil, and eight loads of snails. The cocoa tribute is claimable from "strangers." The Chief alleged that the settlers were "strangers" and he was entitled to 1d. per tree, which would have amounted to £2,000, though he was prepared to accept less. It was held that the settlers could not be regarded as strangers." "The cocoa industry is the result of individual toil, individual enterprise, individual energy. Cocoa is not found wild in the bush like rubber, timber, and game, nor is it found already in the earth like minerals. Land has to be cleared, seeds or cuttings obtained and planted, the farm has to be cared for, the crop picked and prepared and then transported. All the work is done by the farmer himself and his family, or at his own sole expense."

"It is neither natural justice nor good faith that they should now be called upon to pay a heavy tax merely on the ground that by their own energy and enterprise they are making valuable use of land which has been in their occupation all these years."

113. The original idea, as I understand it, was that cocoa tribute should be levied from individual strangers such as Mendis, ex-labourers, or artisans from the mines, etc., who wished to settle in Ashanti. Also apparently from members of other Ashanti tribes who chose to migrate into or farm in another Chief's Division. It was not intended that the institution of tribute should lead to a revision of long standing customary relations between various communities.

114. It has to be remembered that on the average in a well cared for, well planted cocoa farm belonging to the native farmer the yield per tree is about 2lbs. per annum. The tribute of one penny per tree is therefore ½d. per lb. or 2s. 6d. per load of 60 lbs. The tribute is a heavy handicap for the stranger, and it tends to preserve land and cocoa farming in the hands of the existing occupiers of the lands. The extension of the tribute in the manner attempted by some of the Chiefs would be a serious matter for the cocoa industry and would tend to the creation of a landlord class with a large rent roll, a feature which is foreign to the native systems of land tenure.

115. Generally, Native Affairs in Ashanti have reached a stage of transition. A new generation which has grown up under the British Administration of Ashanti is coming to the fore. *Prima facie* also native institutions which suited the environment of the old order are hardly likely to be adapted as they stand to the radically changed and changing conditions of the present. A strong Central Government super-imposed upon the tribal administration must affect adversely the power and prestige of the Chiefs, and allegiance is apt to be transferred from the Chiefs to the Government. This accounts to some extent for the paramountcy cases, Chiefs desiring to serve the Government direct rather than through a paramount Chief. Communications also break down the isolation, and possibly also, in the long run the jealousy and animosity of the various tribes, at any rate improved communications extend the horizon beyond the village or the tribe. The great factors in modern progress—Trade, Education, Christianity,—all tend to enhance the importance of the individual, and thus to inculcate a sense of the equity of personal reward, of private property, and of the right of bequest.

116. The frequent destoolments, therefore, judged in the light of the changes that are taking place are rather a symptom of the vitality than of the decay of native institutions. There are no lack of candidates for the Stools, and if rumour is true there is no lack of intrigue and bribery to secure election. Further, as already stated, among the charges in cases of destoolment are often charges of violation of native custom of which the "youngmen" pose as the jealous guardians. What seems greatly needed is the decent administration of Stool revenue, and a settled system of jurisdiction. These are reforms which it is hoped can be provided in a native jurisdiction Ordinance now under contemplation, and which the Chiefs are anxious to see introduced. It must be remembered also that "the youngmen" are not very dutiful subjects.

Bowdich, writing in 1817, when Ashanti was at the zenith of its power described "*the lower orders of the people*" as "ungrateful, insolent and licentious," and he stated that the King of Ashanti confided to him his opinion that they were "the worst people in existence" adding however, as he called to mind his hereditary enemies "except the Fantees," and he went on to say that "they were not comparable with many of their inland neighbours." An opinion which, perhaps, some of the Chiefs of the present day would not hesitate to endorse.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cattle.

117. The number of cattle imported into Ashanti is estimated at 15,400, a considerable decrease on the previous year's return owing to the outbreak of rinderpest in the French country north of the Northern Territories. The number imported into Coomassie was 5,150, a decrease of 1,760. The average price per head was £15. In the Coomassie Abattoir, 1,916 head of cattle, and 2,464 sheep and goats were slaughtered for local consumption.

The number of cattle exported from Coomassie by rail was 4,235 and of sheep and goats 2,000. 27 horses were brought into Coomassie. The natives seem to be of opinion that the clearings round the town have improved the health of their horses.

POPULATION.

118. The returns of the Census taken in April, 1921, are available at the time of writing this report. The population of Ashanti is returned as 420,000, as against 287,814 at the last Census.

COOMASSIE.

119. The population of Coomassie at the recent Census was returned at 20,000. It was anticipated that the number would be higher as an informal Census eighteen months before reckoned the population at 32,000. The population of the Coomassie District is, however, 146,000 nearly equal to that of the Central Province at the last Census which included the Districts of Coomassie, Ashanti-Akim, and Ejura.

120. The rents collected during the year amounted to £6,000, an increase of £1,500 on the rents payable in the previous year. The number of new leases granted in the town and Zongo was 207, as against 105 in 1919. Building permits to the number of 221 were issued, as against 103 in 1919.

121. At present the administration of Coomassie is in the hands of the Police Magistrate, already fully occupied with Court work. He is assisted by a Town Clerk and a Town Surveyor, both native officials.

122. The Government is ground landlord of all land within the town limits, i.e., within a radius of one mile and a half from the Fort, and the land is leased at various rentals for terms ranging from seven to 99 years. In view of the growth of Coomassie, which is likely to be rapid and continuous the time has come for setting up some new machinery for its administration, and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Government.

123. The town is fortunate in having ample building land, and there should be no serious difficulties in planning the layout of new quarters. It should be possible to establish without great expense, public gardens and recreation grounds. The rising generation are learning to play cricket, football, and tennis, but at present there are no public grounds where these games can be enjoyed. It should be possible also to lay out a quarter for residents who are in a position to build good class houses, and who would take in water and electric light when a water supply and electric lighting have become realities. In view also of the fact that trees, shrubs, and flowers seem to flourish in Coomassie, it may not be too much to hope that the residents in the new quarters of the town will be encourged to plant gardens so that the residential areas of Coomassie, at any rate, may offer something more to the eye than an arid though ordered collection of dwellings. All this, however, is not work which can be adequately carried out or pushed on in moments snatched from office or Court work.

124. For the European community which at the recent Census taken during the trade slump numbered 219, an excellent residential quarters is provided on the Ridge. At this moment, however, lack of funds has suspended building operations.

125. On the Ridge also there is ample space for a public garden and recreation grounds, and it is to be hoped that at an early date it will be possible to start laying them out. At the present moment there is in Coomassie one cricket pitch for forty or fifty European cricketers; indeed, it is the only cricket pitch for the cricketing community European or Native. In Coomassie there are no public tennis courts, and last but not least, there is no Club, that is to say no common meeting place for European residents. Here again lack of funds has held up, for a short while only it is hoped, the development of the amenities of the station.

SURVEYS.

126. The Survey Department is now established in Ashanti, and the topographical survey party should reach Ashanti towards the end of the 1921–1922 season. Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that one of the greatest boons that can be conferred on the inhabitants is a survey of this country, which will enable tribal boundaries to be finally determined, and facilitate the settlement of land disputes. The Chiefs are eagerly awaiting the time when maps of their tribal lands will be available.

EMPLOYMENT FOR EUROPEANS.

127. There is no scope for the employment of Europeans except for those engaged at home.

OCCURRENCES.

128. The Governor visited Coomassie in April, and in May installed Mr. C. H. Harper, O.B.E., as Chief Commissioner in the place of Sir Francis Fuller, K.B.E.

129. At the end of the year Mr. A. J. Philbrick, Senior Provincial Commissioner of Ashanti was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories in succession to Captain Armitage, C.M.G., D.S.O.

CONSTITUTION OF ASHANTI.

130. The Ashanti Order in Council, 1901, after recording that the territories heretofore known as Ashanti had been conquered by His Majesty's Forces declared that Ashanti shall be annexed to and form part of His Majesty's Dominions, Ashanti thus became a Colony. The Governor of the Gold Coast Colony is empowered to exercise all powers and jurisdictions of the Crown in Ashanti. In the absence of the Governor from Ashanti, the Chief Commissioner has certain powers of pardon.

131. There is neither Legislative Council nor Executive Council for Ashanti. Laws are enacted by the Governor and the rule-making power generally delegated to Executive Councils is as a rule in the hands of the Chief Commissioner, subject to the Governor's approval. The disciplinary powers

also over officials usually exercised by Executive Councils are in the absence of the Governor from Ashanti entrusted to the Chief Commissioner, assisted by an officer with legal qualifications, who shall be appointed by the Governor. Suspension by the Chief Commissioner requires confirmation by the Governor, and in case of suspension or other punishment a full report of the proceedings has to be transmitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation or disallowance or other directions thereon.

C. H. HARPER,

Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1070	British Honduras	1919
1071	Hong Kong	,,
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	1919
1076	Falkland Islands	,,
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	,,
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	,,
1094	Weihaiwei	,,
1095	St. Vincent	1920
1096	Nyasaland	,,
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil seed, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1107.)

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FINANCIAL.

1. For financial administration the Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories though constitutionally separate and distinct are treated as a single unit. It is possible, therefore, to obtain a very rough estimate only of the financial position of Ashanti.

Revenue.

2 Local receipts amounted to £57,200 of which the most important items were :—

	£
Motor licences	1,770
Spirit licences	5 990
Court fines and fees	8,700
Rents of Government land	7,150
Mining Royalties estimated at..	15,000

The only item which shows a decrease of any importance is the revenue from Firearm and Ammunition licences which fell from £5,400 to £1,300. This is due to the fact that five year licences were issued in 1920.

Apart from that item there is a general increase in receipts all round, particularly in Court Fees and Rent of Government lands which increased by £2,500 and £1,000 respectively.

3. Import duties on goods landed at Seccondee for Ashanti are estimated at £112,000 as compared with £332,000 last year. The duty on spirits amounted approximately to £37,000 as against £34,660 last year.

4. The quantity of cocoa and kola railed from Ashanti during the year was 44,000 tons and 2,300 tons respectively. This means a revenue from export duties of £216,000.

5. The proportion of the Railway gross receipts which can be fairly credited to Ashanti was estimated in 1920 at £181,000. For the year under review the sum of £250,000 is held to be a fair estimate.

6. Thus the revenue of Ashanti from sources easily assignable is roughly as follows :—

	£
Local Receipts	57,200
Import Duties	112,000
Export Duties	216,000
Railway Receipts	250,000
Total ..	£635,200

7. It must be remembered that statistics of Ashanti Imports and Exports are kept at Seccondee only, though other ports serve Ashanti to some small extent. A share also of Post Office Revenue and of the Interest on General Account is due to Ashanti.

EXPENDITURE.

8. The local expenditure in Ashanti for all Departments is approximately £132,200. The Headquarters of the Gold Coast Regiment, of the Forestry and Veterinary Departments, are established in Coomassie, and some of the expenditure connected with these establishments should properly be distributed over the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories. Part also of the expenditure on the Coomassie-Tamale Road and on Ashanti and Northern Territories Judiciary should be borne by the Northern Territories. On the other hand, Ashanti has to bear its share of Headquarters and general charges, of which the heaviest would probably be on account of Posts and Telegraphs and Public Debt charges.

9. As regards Railway expenditure, including working expenses and all interest charges on loan works a fair approximate sum for 1920 was considered to be £130,000. During the year under reveiew the sum of £163,000 is considered a fair charge.

10. In 1920 the financial year synchronized with the calendar year. In 1921, however, the financial year commenced to run from April to April, and it would be misleading therefore, to compare the expenditure of one completed financial year with nine months of one financial year and three months of another. There has, however, been one obvious increase in local expenditure in Ashanti and that is on Political Administration. The increase excluding passages to and from England, is roughly £8,000 and is due to an increase in Staff. It has become possible now to re-open stations which were closed down during the war.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

11. During 1921 it would appear that Ashanti paid its way and was also able to make a contribution towards the general development of the Gold Coast.

TRADE.

12. The overseas trade of Ashanti differs little from that of the Gold Coast Colony, which is dealt with by the Comptroller of Customs in his Annual Trade Report of the Gold Coast. It may be noted here, however, that the value of goods cleared at Seccondee for Ashanti was £721,000. For the first nine months of the year the imports were exceptionally low, but during the last quarter goods to the value of over £280,000 were imported through Seccondee for Ashanti, presaging it is to be hoped a general revival in trade.

13. As regards local trade it is reported from the Western Province that Kintampo alone shows any sign of vitality "elsewhere people are again learning to become self-supporting and to be content with a minimum of luxuries." Cattle have reached Kintampo in larger number than ever before. The reason for the improvement in trade at Kintampo is due mainly to the fact that a detachment of the Regiment is now being stationed there and that the station is regaining something of its pre-war importance as an administrative centre. The only cocoa coming from the Province is collected at Nkoranza which lies on a motor road. The mainstay at present of the Province is the cola export trade. Two motor roads are now under construction from Coomassie to the Western Province and as they advance the trade prospects of the Province will brighten considerably.

In the Eastern Province the outlook is much more promising. There has been an export by rail of 44,000 tons of cocoa and 2,300 tons of cola during the year. This means that a good deal of money has passed into the hands of the people. In addition a pretty large sum in wages has been paid out by the Railway Construction. Trade going North shows a considerable improvement, such as increases of 3,000 loads of cola, 3,000 loads of English trade goods, 2,300 loads of cloth, 1,800 loads of Kerosene. The trade from the North shows a decrease in cattle 2,400 head, hides 6,000, but increases in sheep 5,000, goats 4,500, and Shea butter 600 loads. From Kratchi it is reported that there is a serious decline in the Addah salt trade, that the Addah salt traders cannot compete with the salt imported by the French.

AGRICULTURE.

14. There are three Agricultural stations in Ashanti, one at Coomassie, another at Juaso the headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District in the Eastern Province, and the third at Ejura, also in the Eastern Province, outside the forest-belt and alongside the Coomassie-Tamale Road. The various experiments conducted at these stations are fully explained in the Annual Report of the Agricultural Department.

15. The Officers of the Department have covered the greater part of Ashanti during the year on tours of instruction. The chief topic has been the improvement of the cocoa industry. In certain likely areas an attempt has been made to form Cocoa Growers' Associations for the encouragement of combined and co-operative effort to improve the quality of cocoa. A promising start has been made at Mampon, Bompata, Tasamenso and Peki; rules have been drawn up and many farmers have promised to join.

COCOA.

16. Cocoa is the foundation of the peace and prosperity of Ashanti, and it would seem that the cocoa industry though it needs careful watching and nursing is on a pretty solid basis, for in spite of the low and disappointing prices that ruled throughout the year the quantity of cocoa railed from Ashanti stations was 44,000 tons as gainst 37,500 tons in 1920.

17. The crop has been a heavy one the increased rainfall having had apparently the effect of increasing the weight of the bean. The quality at the beginning of the season was reported to be the best hitherto prepared on the Gold Coast, but it fetched perhaps the lowest prices recorded. This was a serious disappointment to the farmers and as the prices remained low, they allowed the cocoa to remain too long on the trees or left it in heaps on the ground. It was natural therefore, that as the season progressed and there was no improvement in price the quality deteriorated. This is all the more to be regretted for there had been an obvious effort on the part of farmers to improve the grade. Even now, however, Mr. Evans, Provincial Superintendent of Agriculture, whose experience of cocoa production on the Gold Coast is unrivalled is of opinion that if manufacturers would offer 1s. or 2s. per. cwt. more for the better grade of cocoa the general quality throughout Ashanti would soon show a very noticeable improvement.

18. Insect pests and fungoid diseases show no reduction in the toll they take from the crops. The greatest danger is apprehended from Sankonabe and Brown Pod disease, which are both prevalent over most of the cocoa growing area. In some districts Brown Pod disease is reported to have affected 15% of the pods. Until some economic and comprehensive method is devised for dealing with pests and diseases there are likely to be recurring periods of anxiety in connection with the industry.

19. Some interesting statistics have been collected and investigated by the Agricultural Department and a rough but only a rough estimate of the cost and profits of cocoa production to the farmer can be arrived at. Farms are cleared as a rule three times a year, and the clearing is carried out by hand labour or under contract. The cost works at about 1s. 7d. a load. Picking, drying and fermenting of cocoa is the work of the farmer and his family. The cost of head transport per load per mile varies from 1¼d. for long distances to 3½d. for short distances, the cost of lorry transport is 1⅛d. per load per mile. If the cocoa has to be carried 20 miles by carrier and then 20 miles by lorry to a railway station the expenses per load will be :

	s.	*d.*
Clearing	1	7
Carriers at 2d. per mile	3	4
Lorry at 1⅛d. per mile	1	10
	6	9

20. The average yield per tree on *a well kept* native farm is estimated at 1¾ lbs. in the principal fruiting season. (In the Agricultural station at Coomassie the average yield is 2 lbs.) A native farmer possesses on the average about 5,000 trees which will produce 146 loads. If the price per load at the railway station is 12s. per load, the farmer clears 5s. 3d. per load or £38 6s. 0d. for his whole farm. This amount is the fund which pays the cost of the personal exertions of himself and his family and supplies the

profits of the industry. These figures deal with the principal fruiting season only. As regards the mid-season, however, not more than ¼ lb. per tree can be fairly expected, that is about 20 loads, valued according to the preceding calculations at £5 5s. 0d. Not a few farmers have more than one farm, and in any case work on the farm does not occupy the farmer and his family from year's end to year's end.

In the case of "strangers" they are called upon to pay tribute of 1d. per tree to the Chief on whose tribal lands they have their farms. This tribute means 2s. 6d. per load and if rigidly enforced is sufficient to retain most of the land and cocoa farming in the hands of the owners of the soil.

21. At a time of low prices farms that are some days distant from a buying centre are not likely to produce any appreciable profit. This has been the case during the year with the cocoa farms in the Western Province. It was not unnatural, therefore, that the visits of the Agricultural Officers to those outlying districts should have been received with apathy, but even so it is reported that in some cases the advice given has been heeded and that some improvement in the care of farms could be observed. In a couple of years it is hoped that two motor roads already under construction one running West and the other North-West into the Western Province will at least reach 60 miles and the advance of these roads (the main difficulty hitherto has been the bridging) will very materially affect the prospects of the cocoa farmers in the neighbourhood. There is, however, a certain amount of land planted with cocoa which cannot yield any fair profit except in a "boom." With price of cocoa between 12 and 15 shillings at railway stations there is bound to be a limit beyond which it cannot be profitable to grow cocoa and where development must await the extension of the railway system. Possibly the realisation of this fact may encourage migration for farming purposes to the uncultivated areas in proximity to motor roads and railways.

COLA.

22. Fortunately in those areas where the low prices of cocoa and the comparatively high cost of transport made cocoa farming for the time being unprofitable there was an alternative in the cola trade. It has this advantage over the cocoa industry that it is unaffected by the changes and chances of the European market. More attention it is reported was being paid to the cultivation of the trees and in some cases clearings were being made for plantations of cola. The price remained the same as in 1920 and though the exports by railway shew a reduction of about 700 tons the traffic northwards has considerably increased.

The industry is entirely in native hands from start to finish and it is one of which there is not a great deal of information available.

Rice.

23. The cultivation of rice continued to extend and it is interesting to note that the locally grown rice commands a much higher price than the imported rice. The experiments at the Ejura station serve to show that at any rate as a Government undertaking the cultivation of rice as a main crop even at its present high retail price is not a business proposition. The natives usually plant it as a second crop after maize and it is also found that it can be grown successfully after ground-nuts.

Food Stuffs.

24 In view of the scarcity in 1920 considerable attention was given to the cultivation of food crops. The price of yams fell considerably though it was high enough to give a good profit to the farmers in the open country near motor roads.

25. A motor tractor was experimented with at Ejura for ploughing the land. The experiment shows that so far the tractor cannot be regarded as an economic possibility in local agriculture owing to the high price of kerosene and the quantity it was necessary to use. It was found also that stoppages were frequent owing to hidden roots and stumps and it was necessary to keep two men constantly employed to remove these obstructions.

Mining Industry.

26. The amount of gold produced during the year from Mines in Ashanti was 85,019 ounces valued at £361,360 as against 70,719 ounces valued at £300,412, the output for 1920. Two Mines only are producing, *viz.:* the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation and the Obuasi Mines, Ltd., but a certain amount of prospecting and testing of Concessions was carried out during the year. There were no dredging operations undertaken, but they are likely to be resumed in the Offin River at an early date.

The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry in Ashanti is as follows :—

	Surface.	Underground.	Total.
Europeans ..	55	14	69
Natives ..	2,504	929	3,433

LEGISLATION.

27. Seventeen Ordinances were enacted during the year. Of these the most important were :—

No. 7 .. An Ordinance, applying to Ashanti the Insurance Funds Ordinance, 1889, and the Companies Ordinance, 1906, as enacted for the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 8 .. An Ordinance to facilitate the enforcement in Ashanti of Maintenance Orders made in England and Ireland and *vice versa*.

No. 14 .. An Ordinance to provide for the Detention and Deportation of certain persons convicted of Desecrating the Golden Stool of Ashanti.

28. Six Rules under various Ordinances were made. The most important was Rule 6 of 1921, which provided for a system of locality marks on mahogany felled for export.

29. Various Orders were made, the most important being an Order appointing the Police Magistrate, Coomassie, and the Officer in charge of the Treasury, Commissioners of Stamp Duties for Coomassie, and an Order extending generally throughout Ashanti the Civil Jurisdiction of District Commissioners from £50 to £100.

JUDICIAL.

30. The number of cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti is as follows :—

	Civil.	Criminal.
EASTERN PROVINCE.		
Provincial Commissioner	46	13
District Commissioner, Coomassie	74	915
District Commissioner, Obuasi	662	910
do. Juaso	338	271
do. Ejura	145	122
do. Krachi	2	190
WESTERN PROVINCE.		
Sunyani	77	224
Goaso	22	51
Wenchi	97	439
Kintampo	13	102
Police Magistrate, Coomassie	1,022	2,655
Circuit Judge	38	103
Chief Commissioner	24	—
	2,560	5,995

These statistics shew an increase of 1,294 Civil Cases and 2,219 Criminal Cases over the figures for 1920. One of the principal causes of this development is no doubt the slump in trade and consequent unemployment. On the Criminal side this has led to theft, embezzlement, robbery, and on the Civil side to the multiplication of debt cases, for loans have had to be called in.

31. Fees and fines amounted to £8,449 as against £5,147 in 1920, and this in spite of a decrease amounting to £1,779 under Fines in the Coomassie District.

32. Crime as a rule is of the violent order and shows a lack of subtlety. In the Police Magistrate's Court there was a case of "money doubling" and the case of a Schoolmaster working on the fears and superstitions of his pupils to induce them to steal from their guardians and parents. At Juaso there were several cases of praedial larceny on the part of railway labourers, and there was the case of a clerk who posed as a lawyer and obtained a fee of £260 to appear in a land case.

CONCESSIONS.

33. No new Concessions were taken up during the year, but two were terminated.

POLICE.

34. The Police Force in Ashanti numbers 239, and is nearly up to its authorised strength. Two additional Assistant Commissioners have been allocated to Ashanti and there has been an increase in literate Constables. The necessity is arising, however, for a further augmentation of the Force.

35. The number of offences reported to the Police was 2,343. The number of Police prosecutions was 3,705 resulting in 3,385 convictions.

36. The testimony to the good work done by the Police during the year is universal. In Coomassie during the excitement over the desecration of the Golden Stool their conduct was admirable.

PRISONS.

37. The statistics of the Prisons in Ashanti are as follows :—

	Convicted.	Untried.	Debtors.	Escapes.	Recaptures.
Coomassie.. ..	823	61	62	8	3
Obuasi	245	109	53	—	—
Juaso	97	83	13	—	—
Kintampo.. ..	77	12	—	2	—
Sunyani	97	28	10	—	—

At Ejura the average number of prisoners was nine. At Goase and Wenchi there are police "lock-ups."

The health of the prisoners has been uniformly good. At Coomassie, Obuasi and Kintampo the buildings are of a good type, but at Juaso and Ejura they are of the "bush" type and at Sunyani the present building has been converted from a military store. Farms are now being started in connection with the prisons, and have already considerably reduced the cost of the prison. At Coomassie very valuable work in the way of reclamation was carried out by the Prison Department on the site of the prison farm. That site lying between the railway station and the Ridge was formerly swamp, covered with elephant grass and weeds, and breeding mosquitoes. It has now been drained and planted out with maize and cassada.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

38. Outside Coomassie there are Medical Officers stationed at Sunyani, and Kintampo. There is also a Medical Officer attached to the Railway Construction and at Obuasi the Mines Medical Officer by arrangement with the Manager of the Mines takes charge of Government Officials. At Coomassie there is the Provincial Medical Officer and a Medical Officer.

39. There was no serious epidemic during the year and the health of the native population seems to have been normal. At Coomassie Hospital, which is the finest Native Hospital on the Gold Coast, there were 1,125 admissions and 83 deaths. The prevalent diseases were Ulcers, Malaria and Venereal, and there was also a considerable number of Pulmonary and Bronchial affections.

The principal cases of death were Injuries 11, Bronchitis, 1 Pneumonia and Pthisis 19, Septic infections 12, Dysentery 6.

There were 14,126 vaccinations performed of which 9,175 were successful.

40. For Europeans in Coomassie, it has been a bad year. There were 172 admissions to the Hospital as against 149 in 1920, and there were 186 Officials on the sick list as gainst 116 in 1920. There were three deaths and fifteen cases of invaliding. There were six cases of Blackwater fever with two deaths as against three cases with one death in 1920. The European population of Coomassie is about 225.

41. As regards buildings the Native Hospital is sufficient for the present requirements of the population, but owing to lack of Staff full advantage cannot be taken of the accommodation provided; an extension to the European Hospital was carried out during the year, but in the near future further extension will be necessary to provide accommodation for women patients.

SANITATION.

42. The Sanitation of the bush village in Ashanti is as a rule satisfactory and there is a general desire for a " fine " village with good streets and houses. In certain parts of Ahafo, however, in Western Ashanti some of the villages are beginning to have a ruinous appearance and it is explained that owing to the impossibility of marketing the cocoa crop at that distance from motor roads and railways the " youngmen " are going to Akim. In villages which are becoming important trade centres the upkeep of the village not unfrequently gets beyond the control of the village authorities, and assistance in the way of Sanitary Inspectors and of constant supervision on the part of the Medical or Political Officers is necessary to strengthen the hands of the Chief in dealing with his cosmopolitan population.

43. The Sanitation of Obuasi is in the hands of the Sanitary Committee composed of Government and the Mine Representatives. It expended the sum of £6,000 during the year and has a balance of £4,500 to its credit. Its revenue is derived from a poll tax. Obuasi, with a population of under 4,000 is probably better equipped with funds for sanitation than any other town on the Gold Coast.

SANITATION OF COOMASSIE.

44. The population of Coomassie is roughly 20,000, the town limits run at a radius of a mile and a half from the Fort and there are buildings scattered over all the area. The Sanitary Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, a Superintending Sanitary Inspector, one Second Class Inspector, four Third Class Inspectors and two Probationers. This Staff is confessedly inadequate and the time is anxiously awaited when funds will permit of a substantial increase.

45. On daily house to house inspection 39,479 houses were visited, in 384 cases larvæ were found and in 289 cases Summonses were issued. Notices as regards insanitary conditions were served in 1,182 cases and 782 Summonses were taken out.

46. Household refuse is destroyed in small incinerators of which there are 20 distributed over the various quarters of Coomassie. Householders convey their refuse to the nearest incinerator, and street and market refuse is collected by scavengers and carted to the incinerators. The system works fairly well, but the incinerators are a great nuisance to the inhabitants in the near neighbourhood and the time has arrived for a modern high pressure destructor and more suitable transport.

47. The water supply is obtained from two sources from the East and West Subin streams, which are rarely dry, and from shallow wells of which two are reserved for Europeans consumption. The water for officials is transported in head loads by prisoners and it has to be boiled and filtered before it is safe to drink. Investigations are being undertaken with a view to the provision of a pipe-borne water supply for Coomassie.

48. Sewage disposal is effected by means of prison labour. The prisoners convey head-loads from the latrines to entrenching areas, one on each side of the town. The system is not altogether satisfactory, but it is likely to be some time before any radical improvement can be made.

49. For a part of the year Coomassie had the services of a European Building Inspector, but unfortunateiy he was soon transferred to the Colony. Coomassie, which will soon be the terminus of two railways, is already experiencing the effect of a certain amount of building activity, and, indeed, of speculation, for people from the surrounding villages are taking up plots in Coomassie, as a more remunerative investment than the cocoa industry. Although it was a bad year from the business point of view 237 building permits were approved as gainst 221 in 1920 and 103 in 1919. New leases granted in the town were 179 and in the Zongo 15, as against 137 and 68 in 1920.

50. Coomassie receives no grant in aid from the Government nor are rates levied. There is, however, a substantial revenue amounting in 1921 to £7,000 from rents, for the Government is ground landlord within the town limits. The revenue which is collected in the town by way of rents, licences (excluding motor licences), and fees amounts to £10,800.

51. The administration of Coomassie is theoretically in the hands of the Police Magistrate, who, as will be seen from the judicial statistics quoted above is fully occupied with Court work. Practically all work in connection with the layout and buildings is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and the Town Surveyor, the latter being the only person in Coomassie who has any idea what is the layout and where are the pillars to mark streets and building plots in the new areas planned some years ago and now overgrown. It is to be regretted that lack of funds do not permit of a more ambitious scheme of town planning than the present makeshift arrangements for there is an excellent opportunity now, before the rush comes, of laying out an attractive township, with public gardens and recreation grounds.

52. During the year 1,740 cattle, 2,111 sheep, 2,878 goats, and 126 pigs were slaughtered. The animals were inspected before and after slaughter and the meat was hung for the night and inspected next morning in the market. The price of beef has fallen from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 3d. per lb. and mutton from 2s. to 1s. 9d.

53. Funds were not available for any extensive Sanitary works or improvements during the year. The most important work was the extension of the concrete drainage system by an addition of 3,500 feet. It is pointed out that "the main drainage of Coomassie consists of enormous wash-outs not easy to deal with from a sanitary point of view, for they have to be continually oiled in the rainy season and are receptacles for rubbish at all seasons." The substitution, therefore, of concrete drains though likely to be a long and expensive process is a consummation devoutly to be wished. In addition to concrete drainage four new public latrines and three new incinerators were built.

54. The rainfall recorded at various stations during the year was :—

	Inches.	Wettest month.	
Coomassie ..	66.94	June	12.32
		September ..	12.47
Juaso	75.19	June	12.35
Ejura	62.61	September ..	12.46

It is the heaviest rainy season recorded for some years. In 1919 the rainfall for Coomassie was 37 inches and in 1920, 55.90 inches.

EDUCATION.

55. Education is in the hands of the Government and the Missions. The Government Schools are at Coomassie, Juaso in the Eastern Province, and Sunyani in the Western Province.

The numbers on the roll at Coomassie are 407 boys and 125 girls. The buildings are inadequate and an excellent site has been selected for new School buildings, but it is not anticipated that it will be possible to proceed with their erection for some time to come. At Sunyani there are 80 boys on the roll, being a slight decrease on the numbers for the preceding year.

The School at Juaso is in a flourishing condition and great interest is taken in it by the Chief. The number on the roll is 126 boys and 11 girls.

56. The statistics of the Mission Schools are :—

	Schools.	Scholars.
Wesleyan	55	2,866
Roman Catholic	30	1,397
Scottish Mission	28	1,272
S. P. G.	—	238
A.M.E.Z.	—	169
Seventh Day Adventists ..	5	120

Only 12 of these Schools are in the Western Province.

57. In the Eastern Province there is no lack of appreciation of the benefits of Education, and there is a general desire for the establishment of Schools. Chiefs offer to build temporary school buildings and contribute towards the salary of a teacher. Where there is friction or apathy it is due sometimes to the type of school teacher and his methods with the boys. In the Western Province, which in the way of development is far behind the Eastern Province, Schools are still regarded with distrust on the ground that the scholar makes a fractious or rebellious Stool subject. There are exceptions in certain divisions and as the country opens up, there is little doubt that there will be the same demand for schools as there is now in the more developed parts of Ashanti.

58. The schooling provided is of an elementary kind, and those who aspire to something beyond have to resort to Cape Coast or Accra. A Trade School is being established at Mampon and it is welcomed by the Chief and people, who are assisting in the work of clearing and the construction of temporary buildings.

59. The Boy Scout movement is spreading and it is being reorganized on a more satisfactory basis than hitherto. Some of the Chiefs, however, are apt to regard the scouts as a police force, and have readily accorded their support under that misapprehension. The boys are keen and there are great possibilities for good in the movement especially in the period of transition the Ashantis are now entering and when they will need all the moral guidance and training that can be given them.

60. Most of the artizans in Ashanti come from the Coast, but before long as the opportunity for learning trades arises, the Ashanti will assert his claim to a fair share in the sphere of technical employment. Already there are 44 Ashantis employed as motor drivers by the Government and there are 36 Ashantis in the engineering shops at Coomassie. The Firms also are no doubt training and employing Ashantis.

RELIGION.

61. There are six Missions established in Ashanti.

The Seventh Day Adventists with a membership of 451, of whom 157 are baptized.

The A.M.E. Zion Church with 300 full members, 67 probationers, and 293 juniors.

The S.P.G. with a roll of about 400 members.

The Scottish Mission with 2,212 in their Christian community and 766 adherents.

The Roman Catholic Mission with 2,950 adult members and 1,490 juniors.

The Wesleyan Mission with 8,000 adults, 7,320 juniors, and 2,535 under instruction.

These statistics reveal a remarkable increase in the number of Christians. They exceed the return for 1920 by nearly 15,000. Wholesale conversions into the Wesleyan community have been made by a native Evangelist, Sampson Opon, an illiterate person of extraordinary powers and influence as a preacher. He is a native of Wam in the Western Ashanti, but the scene of his great successes has been Eastern Ashanti. In the Western Province his presence is regarded with disfavour by some of the Chiefs and it is considered prudent for him to confine his work to the Eastern Province. In fact in certain parts of Ashanti something in the nature of a " mass movement " towards Christianity has set in. It may be, and Missioneries are alive to this fact, that such a movement has attendant dangers. Possibly set native habits of morality and the valuable and, it may be the inspired elements

in native religion will be cast aside in an access of momentary enthusiasm without anything lasting or substantial to take their place. There will probably be found much in native custom and habits of thought which can be carried over into a Christian community, and while, therefore, this great impulse towards Christianity is stirring among the Ashanti there is the need of the constant guidance and supervision of European Missionaries versed in and sympathetic towards native customs and beliefs.

62. The native religion is Animism and the vast majority of Ashantis are still its adherents. As a sympathetic description of Animism I venture to quote the words of the Reverend A. W. Wilkie, Head of the Scottish Mission on the Gold Coast and of many years experience in West Africa :—

> Animism is an attitude towards life rather than a formal creed. It is unsystematised, and any formal statement concerning it becomes unreal whenever we try to force it into a system. The fundamental truth in Animism is its spiritual conception of life. For the Animist the ultimate reality is not the seen but the unseen; not the tangible but the intangible : the controlling forces in the world are spiritual. These statements would be unitelligible to the average African Animist, but they are true. For the Animist everything in life—the common acts of daily life—have spiritual (religious) significance. The great imperfection in the animistic outlook is that it is almost completely non-ethical. Right conduct s largely correct procedure, the fulfilment of proper forms, the avoidance of certain taboos. Righteousness as taught by the prophets of Israel is a foreign thought. How deeply this attitude is fixed, and how often it is carried over into the Christian life, the story of young African Churches witnesses. Again, the conception of the spirit world is essentially of spirits that are hostile, which can be made, but are not naturally, friendly. The attitude may lead to a "respect" for, or rather a dread of, the spirits, but not to reverence, and when we are saddened by a lack of reverence in the young Churches, we may trace it to this source. Lastly, it is an attitude towards a world of spirits. The spirit where conceived is so aloof as to be almost negligible." [*East and West.* October, 1921.]

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

63. Two events of outstanding importance in the realm of Native Affairs, occurred during the year. These were the institution of an Anthropological Department and the desecration of the Golden Stool.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

64. Captain Rattray, M.B.E., of the Political Service, was seconded to Ashanti as Anthropologist, and assumed duty in July. In East Africa, Captain Rattray had studied native customs and languages, and on the Gold

Coast as Supervisor of the Preventive Service and later for many years as a Political Officer he had studied the customs and languages of the natives among whom his work lay. During leave he pursued his Anthropological studies at Oxford, and obtained the Diploma of Anthropology. He is entitled to a pensionable allowance for advanced knowledge of a native language, in his case Twi, the language of the Ashantis. From time to time he has published books on native languages and folklore.

65. An Anthropological Department is of value, as far as Government is immediately concerned, from two points of views, that of the Administration and that of the Native race.

66. As regards the administrative point of view I cannot do better than quote from a recent number of "United Empire." "Good knowledge of native custom is apt to be better than the best intentions without knowledge. However kind or keen an administrative officer may be his justice and mercy are likely to go for nearly nought if he is unacquainted with native social prejudices. A pitfall awaits every well intentioned step, and every stumble he takes is a loss of Government dignity."

Mutatis mutandis the same advice, I venture to think, could profitably be borne in mind by the Missionary, the Merchant, the Mining Engineer, by all whose work lies among natives.

67. As to the native point of view it is necessary to look to the future and to regard the present. Future generations should surely be grateful if they inherit records taken at the time and on the spot of their customs, their language, their origins, their music and their traditions:—some of the elements and part of the foundations it is to be hoped of the culture and civilisation they will have attained. But the amount of the debt which future generations will acknowledge as owing to their own forbears will depend in great measure on the attitude of the present generation towards their native customs and beliefs. Face to face with a material progress and civilisation which seems overwhelming and all devouring there must be a strong temptation for the young Ashanti to cut himself adrift from his past and to become dependent for all moral as well as all material needs upon the European. But Anthropological research will shew that there is much in native religion and custom which is worth a secure place in modern progress and which will tend to preserve the genius of the people and give to their, civilisation something racy of the earth out of which according to their tradition they came forth.

68. But it is perhaps better to let Captain Rattray speak in his own words. "No opportunity has been missed of instituting a propaganda among these people. This campaign is conducted on the theory that our culture, our mode of dress, our ideas, arts, and customs, should not be embraced and superimposed upon their own to the entire extinction and exclusion of what is just and good in their own national institutions. They have

been told that their ideal should be, not to become pseudo-Europeans, but to aim at progress for their race which is based on what is best in their own institutions, religion, manners and customs; that they will become better and finer men by remaining true Ashantis and retaining a pride in their past, and that a greater hope lies in their future if they will follow and build upon lines with which the national *sunsum* or soul has been familiar since first they were a people. I have told them that the work of the new Department is to study these institutions, which the young tend to despise, and to help and advise them as to what will be of assistance to them by retaining, and that we do not wish to destroy such as are good."

"I have tried to make them understand that we are now here among them to help them by grafting on to their institutions such of our own as will help them, in these modern times, to take their place in the Commonwealth of civilized nations, not as denationalised Ashantis, but as an African people who will become all the greater force and power in the Empire because they have not bartered all the wealth of the past, metaphorically speaking, in exchange for a coat, a collar, and a tie."

"The response to this appeal (which has been my apology and excuse for prying into their secrets) the genuine understanding, the gratitude, and the wish for a helping hand to assist them over this critical stage in their evolution, has been a very remarkable feature in my work."

"The Ashantis seem at the parting of the ways, one path leads I believe to the unrest and the ferment we see on every hand among the peoples whose institutions we have either deliberately broken down or as deliberately allowed to decay. The other path at least leads to some surer hope because it has landmarks which the genius of a people will recognise, and which will help them upon the road when in difficulties."

"As a result of informal talks on these lines, I have had from the Chiefs, Queen Mothers, and Elders more assistance than could ever have been hoped for, and every possible facility has been given me in these investigations, and help from them to explain what is obscure. It is impossible to speak too highly of this assistance without which nothing could have been achieved."

"Among the younger generation there is a tendency however to ridicule the past. A youth who has passed the 5th, 6th, or 7th standard, and who by clerical work earns a few pounds a month, who is dressed in European garb, in his heart despises his own institutions, and his own illiterate elders."

"But he takes his cue from the European, whom his end all and be all is to copy. I firmly believe that once the Government and Political Officers are seen to take more interest in his ancient customs or by a knowledge of the colloquial get in touch with the backbone of these people, the elders, and are seen to encourage such customs and institutions as are good, that

the young generation will themselves follow suit and come to realise that they should not throw away their priceless heritage. They may even come to think there may be something in their own customs after all, since the white man seems to take cognizance of them in measures other than merely repressive."

"The 'youngman' of to-day in Ashanti wants to be in the fashion, that fashion for him is set by the European."

"It cannot be said it has been fashinable for us in the past to take an interest in Ashanti national beliefs and customs. It is difficult to take an interest in that which we do not clearly understand."

"Many a European Officer has in an official capacity listened to a native band, sweatingly blowing out Rule Britannia upon instruments with which he is familiar, and has congratulated the bandmaster and the Chief upon his new acquisition, and enterprise. The same Officer has possibly more than once sent his orderly to 'stop that drumming,' the sound of which seems to him possibly even worse than the martial strains to which he has just been compelled to listen."

"The old drummer is, in any case, little likely to be called up before His Majesty's representative and congratulated. Yet the beat of his drums is talking to the old men and women who sit and listen to its recital, in their own tongue, of the names and deeds of dead kings and the history of their ancestors."

"This is but one instance out of scores which show how (all unconsciously to ourselves) we often appear to the Ashanti to wish to destroy his past, and seem only to take cognizance of, and make it worth his while to foster and encourage what the European himself understands."

69. As regards method of work, Captain Rattray writes as follows :—

> "Anthropological research on the Gold Coast has hitherto been conducted through, (1) the medium of interpreters, translating for the European investigator the replies of natives wholly ignorant of English, or (2), by the direct questioning of semi or even perhaps educated Africans. From the results of investigations so conducted we owe our past knowledge of Anthropology of this part of the world."
>
> "But really valuable information on Anthropological subjects in Ashanti is possessed by comparatively few. Their *experts* are now to be found only among the old men and women. These have few dealings with the European, and lead out their lives in the seclusion of their villages, ignorant of, looking askance at, or indifferent to, the changes wrought by the advent of the white man."

"If such old grey haired men or women (whom you do not happen to know intimately), be brought before you, set down, and asked to converse about their customs through an interpreter, then their wonderful store of lore will not be forthcoming, and the enquirer who is too busy with his routine work to devote time to cultivate the full confidence of such persons will be forced to fall back upon his sem-educated informant, who will at least talk freely and willingly of what he knows, as of what he does not know."

"But the value of information gained from these experts is inestimably greater than that obtained from other sources."

"It was a knowledge of these facts which decided me at the initial stages of these investigations to use the better facilities which I possessed, by personally securing as a ground-work this valuable material, which I do not think could be obtained by the other method Once this framework has been secured, then those who, owing to lack of the opportunity which I have been given, or want of knowledge of the language, or both causes, would have found it difficult over to obtain this basic information, will have a foundation before them upon which to conduct further enquiries into the subjects already partly examined."

"It is hoped that the short interval that must necessarily elapse before my colleagues can be asked to step in to assist the new Department, will be more than overtaken, and the delay compensated for by the increased value of their own eventual contributions."

"It is to bring in my colleagues with as little delay as possible that the publication of such monographs as have been completed at this early stage has been advocated, even with the knowledge that additional facts may remain to be recorded to make them complete."

70. Papers illustrated with photographs have been submitted on the following subjects:—

1. The Ashanti Classificatory System.
2. Ashanti Goldsmiths and Gold Weights.
3. Matrilineal Descent in Ashanti with a special plea for the recognition of Queen Mothers.
4. The Golden Stool.
5. Ntoro Exogamous Divisions.
6. Neolithic implements in Ashanti.
7. Land Tenure and Alienation in Ashanti.

71. The following subjects have been investigated and in due course articles on them will be available :—

1. Rites de Passage *i.e.* accounts of ceremonies at birth, puberty, marriage, and death.
2. Drum Talking.
3. The God " Onyame."
4. Adae ceremonies.
5. Abosom (Fetishes).
6. Origin of various clans.
7. Witchcraft, the soul, life after death.
8. Hunting.
9. Historical records.

72. Among Phonographic Records the following have been made :

1. Drum talking records.

2. Kwadwuomfo's songs It is the duty of the Kwadwumfo, on certain ceremonial occasions, to stand behind a Chief and to sing (in archaic Ashanti, and so disguished as to be unintelligible to the uninitiated) the past history of the clan.

3. Bara songs. A more or less complete set of songs as sung on the coming to puberty of a young girl have been obtained and will illustrate a paper on the subject.

73. A certain number of physical measurements and of photographs have been taken. The former have not yet been worked out. The photographs are for illustrating the articles, but they will also be published in albums.

74. Captain Rattray's researches have already proved of practical value for it is due to his investigations that much that is new in the history of the " Golden Stool " has come to light and with such knowledge Government has seen the way to deal in a sympathetic spirit with the disturbing event of its desecration.

THE DESECRATION OF THE GOLDEN STOOL.

75. The Golden Stool came into the life of the Ashantis during the time of Osai Tutu, the fourth known King of Ashanti. It was his good fortune to be the founder of the Ashanti Empire, and his successes were attributed to the power of the Golden Stool.

76. In the early years of his reign there came to live among the Ashantis a man named Anotchi He was a clansman of the King of Denkera, then paramount over Ashanti, but he had been forced to fly from Denkera because he had seduced one of the King's wives He took refuge in the Obi country where he made a study of fetish medicines and practices, and from the Obi

country he came to Juaben in Ashanti. To the King of Juaben he announced that he had a mission from Onyame, the sky god, to make the Ashantis a great and powerful nation. The King of Juaben reported the announcement to Osai Tutu and a great gathering was summoned in Coomassie. In the presence of a large assembly of people, Anotchi by his powers drew down from the sky, a black cloud, and amid rumblings, and air thick with white dust a wooden stool having three supports, and partly covered with gold.

77. The Stool did not descend upon the ground but rested on the knees of Osai Tutu. Anotchi proclaimed to Osai Tutu and to all the people that the Stool contained the Sunsum (soul or spirit) of the Ashanti nation, their power, their health, their bravery, their honour and their welfare. He warned them also that if the Stool was captured or destroyed then as a man sickens and dies, so would the Ashanti nation sicken and die. He called upon Osai Tutu and each Ashanti Chief and each Queen Mother to take a few of their hairs and a piece of the nail from the fore-finger; these he collected and ground into a powder and mixed with "medicine," some of this compound was drunk and the rest poured over the Stool. To realise the significance of this rite it must be borne in mind that when a person dies from home and it is not possible to bring the body back for burial, some nail parings and hairs are brought home, for it is supposed that the Sunsum will accompany them.

78. In one account it is said that two brass bells were attached to the Stool when it descended from the sky, but another story is that Anotchi caused Osai Tutu to make four bells two of brass and two of gold to hang on each side of the Stool. Many Chief's stools have bells attached to them for the purpose of summoning at the Adae ceremonies the ghosts of the parted Chiefs.

79. Other well known insignia attached to the Stool were the gold fetters and the gold masks. The gold fetters are a trophy and a memorial of the overthrow of the Denkera power by the Ashantis. The King of Denkera sent his message to demand his tribute from Ashanti :—

A brass pan to be filled with gold dust.
The favourite wife of every Chief.
The favourite son of every Chief.

The King of Juaben, it is said, rose up and smote the messenger, and gave orders for him instantly to be killed. Every Ashanti Chief came forward and dipped his finger in the blood of the messenger and swore Oath to resist Denkera to the last. The two armies met in their final battle not far from Coomassie and the Denkeras were utterly routed. The King of Denkera was found by the pursuing Ashantis sitting with his wife and playing Ware, a native form of draughts, and his feet were shackled with golden fetters. These fetters are the Sika Dayanfo, part of the insignia of the Golden Stool.

80. The Gold Masks are of the face of Edinkra, King of Gyaman, a country some five or six days north-west of Ashanti. Edinkra had heard of the Golden Stool of Ashanti and thought it would be good to make one for Gyaman. The news of another Golden Stool so enraged the King of Ashanti that he marched an army into Gyaman defeated the forces opposed to him, and captured and beheaded the King. The gold of the Stool he had melted down and made into two casts of his rival's face, and these he had hung one on each side of the Golden Stool.

81. The Stool is never supposed to have touched the earth. On the rare occasions on which it was brought out it was never allowed to come into direct contact with the ground. The skin off the back of an elephant was set on the ground, and over this was spread a cloth of the kind woven in the North, and upon this cloth the Stool was placed. The Stool was never sat upon nor was it the Stool of every day or every ceremonial use. On great occasions the King would make pretence to sit upon it three times and would then seat himself upon his own Stool his arm resting upon the Golden Stool. In its progress once a year to Bantama this Stool was carried under its own umbrella and was surrounded by its attendants who in number and adornment exceeded those of the King who followed it. Its full title is Sika Gua Kofi "Friday's Golden Stool" for it was on a Friday that the Stool descended upon the knees of Osai Tutu.

82. During the 1895 Expedition which culminated in the deportation of Prempeh the surrender of the Golden Stool was intended to be one of the terms imposed upon the Ashantis, but the demand for it was not made. The Ashantis on their part fearing to take their Golden Stool to a war in which they felt they were bound to be defeated offered no opposition. They lost their King but retained the Stool.

83. Just before the 1900 Rising two unsuccessful efforts were made to find the Stool and the demand for it was of the causes of that Rising. Some years later information was received about its hiding place and preparations were made for seizing it. On the earnest representations of the Chiefs who had been loyal during the Rising the authorities abandoned the attempt.

84. The Gyase or bodyguard were custodians of the Golden Stool, and the Gyasehene or Head of the Gyase was responsible for its safety. In 1895, when Prempeh was arrested at Coomassie, certain of the Gyase disappeared into the forest with the Stool in their possession. Opoku Mensah, at that time representing the Gyasehene, when their escape was reported to him, ordered the Stool to be taken to a village Wawase and there to be handed over to certain persons for safe keeping. The Stool was guarded in a special hut built for its reception.

85. About 20 years later a dispute arose over the ownership of the Wawase land. Before giving a decision in the case the Chief Commissioner considered it desirable to inspect the land and set out from Coomassie for that purpose. His intentions were immediately suspected and on the eve of the Chief Commissioner's departure, Chief Esubonten, who had succeeded Opoku Mensah, sent a messenger to Wawase telling the guardian of the Stool that it must be removed at once from Wawase and handed over to Kwesi Wireku of Abuabugya for safe keeping.

86. In August 1920 a road was being made at Chief Esubonten's desire but under Government supervision between Abuabugya and a neighbouring village. At a certain point a diversion almost at right angles was made from the track. This diversion was made at the instigation of the Road Overseer because it was easier going. The Headman of Abuabugya, Kujo Danso, who had succeeded his uncle Kwesi Wireku to the custody of the Golden Stool hovered uneasily round the young-men as they were at work along this diversion. Owing to the bush having been cleared he seemed to have lost his bearings. One Wednesday, Cofi Buor's pick-axe struck a box, and the youngmen gathered round. Danso by persuasion and threats endeavoured to get them out of the way and it was not until he had half convinced them that they had come upon a small-pox fetish could he get them to disperse. The box contained the Golden Stool and its insignia.

Danso sent to his house for a tin trunk as the box was rusted, and with some old men waited till dark when they carried the Golden Stool in the trunk to Abuabugya where it was kept in Yankyira's room. Yankyira was "next" to Danso and looked after the youngmen. The six men "swore fetish" that the discovery should not be made known to any others, but Danso was under no illusion that the youngmen had not realised what was in the box they had come upon by chance. Seniagya the villain of the piece, a professing Christian and by descent one of the Stool Carriers, seemed to have got wind of the discovery, for three days later he appeared at Abuabugya. He greeted Danso and Yankyira and then walked straight into Yankyira's room. He kicked the trunk and said "Is this what you have done here?" Without much difficulty he seemed to have persuaded Danso and Yankyira to share with him the gold ornaments of the Stool. While the distribution was taking place Yogo an ordinary "youngman" happened to be passing and asserted his claim to a share. Their point of view was that it was the Stool itself that was sacred, "but the gold about it is nothing."

87. The youngmen of Abuabugya, however, became curious and began to make enquiries. Kujo Danso, the headman, was "tossed about." Very strong suspicions were aroused and eventually the matter was reported to the Coomassie Chiefs. In the course of their enquiry it was found that the Golden Stool had been desecrated, that a certain goldsmith had received one of the gold bells to melt down and had melted it down, that the gold Fetters had been pawned for 30 shillings, and that most of the gold ornaments and insignia belonging to the Stool had disappeared.

88. On the evening of Monday, 12th September a message was left at the Chief Commissioner's Bungalow that " there was a big palaver over the Golden Stool. It had been stolen." The next morning there was a stormy meeting at Appremesu, the Palaver Hall of the old palace and the place where the two cannon captured in the Denkera war were set up. Chief Esubonten and Seniagya were being accused before the Chiefs. Some Police under a European Commissioner attended to watch the proceedings, and to frustrate any attempt to take the two accused away. The attempt was made, and the Police with assistance of certain others who had kept their heads removed to the Police Station the two men who were the particular objects of the crowd's hostility. The news of the desecration of the Stool soon spread and the excitement and consternation became intense. The Ashantis from neighbouring villages put on mourning and poured in to Coomassie to find out if the report was true. It was not at first credible that their own people should have violated the sanctity of the Stool. The town " became rough and shaky"; no market was held for some days; there was a good deal of wild talk, and as the Chiefs reported ten days later " a good many of the foreigners in town and more particularly the Fantees are running away to their countries with the erroneous idea that we are going to fight." Precautions were taken at once to deal with any emergency, and at the same time steps were taken to allay the excitement. As the facts became known and as the Ashantis came to understand that they had not become a laughing stock but that the sympathy of all strangers was with them in the degradation their national sentiment had suffered, and further that no advantage would be taken of their distress, their feeling of blind resentment began to cool and their hostility focussed itself upon those accused from time to time of complicity in the crime.

89. How to deal with the accused was a problem as perplexing to the Government as it was to the Chiefs. There had been a strong party among the Chiefs who were for concealing the whole business from the Government. In that case as one of the Chiefs explained :—" the two men would have been taken into the bush and lost." On the other hand the offence was not one that fell within the four corners of the Criminal Code, nor would the punishment for theft have been adequate in the minds of the Ashantis. If, again, the two men had been " lost in the bush " enquiries would sooner or later have been set on foot, the deaths of the two men would have been associated with the Golden Stool and the Stool would have been proscribed. If, on the other hand, the Government took entire charge of the proceedings there would be considerable doubt whether evidence sufficient to justify a conviction would be forthcoming. Neither the Stool nor its insignia would have been brought anywhere near the Court, while guilty parties and reluctant witnesses can much more easily evade the proceedings of Government Courts than they can the tribunals of their own Chiefs. Furthermore, the Golden Stool had been regarded as a sort of gage between themselves and the British Government. A gross outrage had been committed on the Stool by certain Ashantis themselves of all people and under British Adminis-

tration the Chiefs had no powers to deal with the offenders. It would be a great humiliation for them to approach the Government wholly to vindicate their honour and their religion. There was no little support, therefore, for those who urged the Chiefs to deal with the offenders in their own way and thereafter quietly take such punishment as the Government might think fit to mete out to them. But the procedure was settled mainly by the fact that the accused were in the Police Station under Government protection. After several interviews the procedure decided upon was as follows :— The Chiefs were to hold the Enquiry, not at Appremesu, but in the open space behind the Police Barracks, where, if necessary, Police reinforcements could appear at a few moment's notice ; Police were to be at the enquiry to maintain order and preserve the peace ; the accused would attend under armed Police Escort ; witnesses were to be summoned and any further arrests were to be made through the Commissioner of Police ; accused and witnesses were to be under Police protection ; the enquiry was to be conducted according to the principles of British justice ; at the conclusion of the enquiry a report was to be made to the Chief Commissioner, who would consider the question of guilt and the nature of the punishment to be inflicted.

90. The Coomassie Chiefs began the enquiry before some three thousand spectators, a good deal more evidence was obtained and more arrests were made. A few days later the Chiefs reported that the case was too important for them to try, and they asked that all the Provincial Chiefs, twelve in number, should be allowed to come to Coomassie to form a Court. The permission was granted but the followers of the Provincial Chiefs were limited to fifty in each case. They arrived on the 21st September, and the whole of the next morning was devoted to the picturesque ceremony of " saluting" one another on the Fort Parade ground. They settled down to work on the following day under the presidency of the Omanhene of Mampon and in four days concluded the enquiry. The Chiefs took every precaution they could think of to ensure that there should be a fair trial. To prevent any suspicion of bias a Fanti Clerk was engaged to take down the notes of evidence, the representatives of " strangers " in Coomassie were asked to attend at the enquiry and so also were the Ministers of the varous religious denominations ; when an important confession was being made it was not allowed to be recorded until Captain Douris, Acting Commissioner of Police, had been summoned to listen to it. At the conclusion of the enquiry and before making their report the Chiefs asked the Ministers for their written opinion as to the guilt of the various accused.

91. The Chiefs found that Seniagya, Kujo Danso, Kwesie Yankyira, Yogo and Kujo-Poku (the Goldsmith who melted down the bell) " being natives of Ashanti and subjects of the Gold Stool of the Ashanti Nation, did expose, steal, destroy, sell and otherwise unlawfully deal with and use the said Gold Stool thereby betraying the said Ashanti Nation and laying it open to disgrace and ridicule, and debasing the name and fame of Ashanti, much to the annoyance and provocation of all people young and old, thereby giving occasion for disturbance and bloodshed, but for the intervention of Government."

92. In the case of Esubonten the Chiefs found that " being the Head-Chief who by virtue of his office had the custody of the Golden Stool " he had neglected his duty and " gave occasion for the exposure and loss of the Golden Stool the loss of which has caused much commotion and fear not only among the whole of the Ashanti Nation but among other Nations on the Coast " and further by " causing a new and unnecessary road to be constructed from Abuabugya to Ahinkro, through the piece of ground in which the Gold Stool and the Treasurers of the Ashanti Nation are deposited did cause the said Stool to be discovered, exposed and stolen. Like an officer or soldier sleeping on guard in time of war, or neglecting to keep watch has suffered the enemy to enter." These persons the Chiefs recommended should be put to death. In the days of the Kings of Ashanti a person committing a less serious offence than this was put to death with all members of his family."

93. At the time the case against Esubonten did not appear strong enough to justify his conviction and he was put back for further enquiries. In the case of the others who had confessed their guilt, banishment overseas was substituted for the death penalty.

94. Eight others were convicted of buying the ornaments of the Stool knowing that they were stolen and belonged to the Stool. The Chiefs asked that these persons should be banished an all their goods confiscated. Five of these, however, were convicted on the evidence of Seniagya alone.—Seniagya had assumed the part of Titus Oates and was accusing people one day and the next day would confess he had been lying. These five persons, therefore, as the evidence of Seniagya was utterly unreliable were acquitted. The remaining three were ordered " to swear fetish" before the Coomassie Chiefs. One of them had admitted receiving the Gold Fetters in pawn, another admitted purchasing some of the Gold from the ornaments melted down, and the third admitted that he disobeyed gong gong and had also purchased some of the gold.

95. Fresh evidence was subsequently brought against Esubonten which was sufficient to prove at least that he was guilty of negligence. The Office he held was that of the keeper of the King's keys including the key of the Stool House ; he was brother and successor of Opoku Mensa who had charge of the Golden Stool ; the Stool was found on his land by his subjects ; he knew the approximate whereabouts of the Stool and it was on his instructions that the Stool was removed from Wawase to Abuabugya. On the other hand he was not immediately responsible for the discovery of the Stool and was in no way concerned in the theft of the Gold. The Chiefs asked that he should be classed with Seniagya and the others. His guilt however, was not as heinous as theirs and it was decided that his Stool should be declared vacant and that he should be banished from Ashanti.

96. The ceremony of swearing fetish was witnessed by Captain Douris, Acting Commissioner of Police, at the pressing invitation of the Coomassie Chiefs. Any fines inflicted had to be paid before the Oath was administered, or sureties had to be found. One of the accused agreed forthwith to pay

the fine of £100. The Chiefs were pleased with the promise saying "He had given them their honour" and as a mark of appreciation reduced the fine to £70, one sheep and two bottles of whisky. "The fetish" was then brought in. It had its own retinue of attendants, umbrella, etc. : and was generally treated as one would expect to see a Chief of high standing, having all the paraphernalia due to Chiefs' rank. It was carried on the head of one boy and was covered with a rather expensive looking carpet, and had at least twelve attendants."

97. "When it was uncovered it consisted of two brass bells one larger than the other. A layer of mutton suet was spread across the top of each leaving the ring for hanging it free. These bells appeared to be quite old as far as one could judge from a superficial examination, and from the care taken of them must have been a fetish of a high order."

98. "The amounts having been settled and all things ready for the ceremony to proceed, Chiefs Kwame Kyem and Toto came forward and uncovered, each then placed a hand on the top of a bell, Kwame Kyem taking the larger one, and Toto taking the smaller one. Chief Nuama then came to the centre of the circle took his foot from his sandal and told Opoku to place his foot on it, Opoku having done this Nuama then placed his foot on top of Opoku's and administered the Oath in the following form :—"I swear by the great Oath Kromanti that if I am in possession of any of the ornaments of the Golden Stool or have given possession of them to any person to hold in trust for me may the fetish kill me." When the Oath had been administered Nuama took the larger of the two bells and holding it up to Opoku's mouth he, Opoku, touched it with his tongue three times while one of the fetish attendants kept ringing the smaller one."

99. "Nuama again invoked some spirit and afterward placed the large bell three times on the head of Opoku and again the smaller one was shaken."

100. "A new bottle of whisky was then opened and a sherry glass filled from it, this was handed to Nuama who spilt three drops on the ground emptying the remainder over Opoku's head."

"During all this time Nuama kept his foot on Opoku's."

"This concluded the ceremony."

101. "I have since spoken to Mr. Rattray about the fetish and the manner of administering it and he gives it to me as his private opinion that the bells used were those of the Golden Stool which judging by the amount of care they took of them and the ceremony observed is doubtless the correct reading" (Report by Captain Douris).

102. The two other accused undertook to find sureties or the amount of the fine. If they do not they will probably suffer imprisonment as an alternative.

103. I am quite satisfied that the Chiefs conducted the trial with all fairness according to their lights. It was held in the presence of a large concourse of spectators and the accused the whole time were under Police protection. There was no intimidation of witnesses or accused. The accused had a fair chance of cross-examining witnesses and of making their defence. In the case of Esubonton his judges were the Coomassie Chiefs his colleagues on the Coomassie Council. They were on friendly terms with him before the palaver and there is no reason to think that there was any private bias against him in their minds.

104. The present condition of the Golden Stool is reported by the Chiefs to be as follows:—"The Nucleus of the Stool described by the Ashantis as the nutshell holding the souls of all Ashanti and protecting us against all evils is some mysterious thing believed to have been charmed and snatched or received from the heavens by our Great Priest Komfu Anotchi. That thing we must truly say is not sold and was therefore not used by the culprits. But all the gorgeous amount of gold trinkets, gold statues, gold bells, and precious beads in connection with the Stool had been wholly stolen and the gold we have recovered now is barely two hundredth part of the total."

105. The attitude of the Government towards the Stool is that the Ashantis may, if they so desire keep open custody of the Stool, that as far as Government is concerned they need not think it necessary to bury or conceal the Stool, that Government will not interfere unless the Ashantis allow its worship to degrade it into an impure fetish or unless they make use of it for seditious purposes.

106. The story of this disturbing event in Ashanti politics cannot be closed without paying a tribute to the conduct of the Chiefs and people of Ashanti throughout the crisis. Apart from the first day or two, Coomassie at night, in spite of the large crowds coming in was as quiet as if curfew had been instituted. No doubt the embargo on the sale of spirits in Coomassie and the neighbouring districts strengthened the hands of the Chiefs, yet the greatest credit is due to the Chiefs themselves for the manner in which they conducted the enquiry and strove successfully to preserve the peace.

THE CENSUS.

107. The Census of Ashanti was taken in April and recorded a population of 407,000 an increase of 119,230 on the Census taken ten years ago. It is not possible to speak of the accuracy of the Census with any great confidence, and the increase in the population is not necessarily a natural one. It may be due to a more extensive acquaintance with the country and to less suspicion on the part of the inhabitants. The population of the Coomassie District including Coomassie is 150,000, and in the districts adjoining along the railways and motor roads and within easy reach of Coomassie there is approximately another 140,000. In the more remote districts of the Western Province there are 115,000 recorded.

PUBLIC WORKS.

108. The sum of £1,700 was spent on Minor Works and £3,000 on Current Repairs. The Provincial Engineer reports that as regards Current Repairs a considerable amount of money is necessary to put in anything like decent repair Government buildings, especially bungalows, at Coomassie and outstations.

109. Under Public Works Extraordinary about £2,500 was spent chiefly on the construction of a motor road into the Western Province. An important bridge over the Offin will shortly be completed and this will throw 30 miles of road open for traffic. The sum of £930 was spent on new streets and roads in Coomassie.

110. The opening of the new Station will divert traffic from its present channels and it will be necessary to expend a large sum on the construction of streets and roads to serve the new Station.

111. The sum of £1,900 was spent on surface drainage. Considerable sums for some years to come will have to be expended on this work.

112. The sum of £11,000 was spent on the construction of four bungalows at Coomassie which were started in 1920.

113. In the near future when the Western Province of Ashanti opens up as the Eastern Province is rapidly doing now, and the importance of Coomassie as the terminus of two railways and the depot for trade from the North and West is realised, a large expenditure on Public Works will become essential.

ROADS.

114. Twenty-five miles of motor road were opened for traffic during the year, chiefly in the Coomassie District. Altogether therefore there are 475 miles of motor road in Ashanti, almost entirely in the Eastern Province. About 200 miles of road are under the supervision of the Public Works. The chief road, and the finest on the Gold Coast, is the road running north to Tamale. From Coomassie to Ejura, 61 miles, this road is described as a "first class road." From Ejura to Attabubu it is described as second class. From Ntonso to Effiduasie a branch road at 14 miles, there are ten miles of second class road. From Coomassie to Bompata, 47 miles and bearing a large proportion of the cocoa traffic, the road is not unfairly described as "an improved bush track with rough timber bridges and culverts which have been put up for some years, and all require rebuildings." If it is to be converted into a second class road it will require re-construction. Fortuntely, however, it is anticipated that the railway will be through to Bompata by the next cocoa season, and will relieve this road of most of its heavy traffic.

115. The cost of maintenance was enhanced by the heavy and prolonged rainy season and by the fact that the Ford lorry is being superseded by a heavier type of lorry, such as, the Reo, the Stewart, and the Auto-car. The cost of maintenance from Coomassie to Ejura works out during the year at £120 per mile, but there was a heavy land slide which closed the road for a fortnight and needed a Special Warrant of £1,000 for its repair. The maintenance of the Coomassie-Bompata Road worked out at £46 per mile, but funds did not permit of more than urgent repairs and temporary expedients The car mileage on the road from Coomassie to Ejura was 741,020, from Ntonso to Effiduasie 108,620, from Ejura to Attabubu 101,360. On the road from Coomassie to Bompata the mileage was not recorded, but in the month of October 1,200 lorries, most of them of the heavy type, were on the road.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

116. The "fleet" numbered 94 lorries and cars as compared with 48 in the previous year.

Comparative statistics are :—

	1920	1921
Passengers	875	1,350
Loads	8,052	14,566
Cars and Lorries sent out	897	1,681

117. The mileage run per month averaged for the last nine months of the year 59,550 miles. In November, 89,400 miles and in December 94,000 miles were run. The longest runs aways from the base are :—

250 miles to Tamale.
138 miles to Kintampo.
115 miles to Tekima.

The average cost of running per mile is 1s. 7d., this figure includes besides wages and salaries the cost of building bush offices and accommodation for a European at Prang and of a certain amount of general repair work at Coomassie.

118. In Coomassie itself the Department delivered 4,025 loads, moved 7,644 loads of officers arriving and departing, and moved 5,961 mail bags and baskets to and from the railway.

RAILWAYS.

119. The bulk of traffic outwards from Ashanti stations is Cocoa and Kola. There was an increase of 6,500 tons in the cocoa traffic and a decrease of 700 tons in the kola traffic as compared with the 1920 returns.

As regards the inwards traffic there were 34,280 tons in 1921 as against 30,700 tons in 1920.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

120. The distance the railway will run from Coomassie to the border is 68 miles. By the end of the year the line was open for traffic to Ejisu, at 15 miles and by the middle of June next will be open to Juaso 45 miles.

121. The building of Coomassie Station is well in hand, but the Construction Department have been faced with an unexpected problem. The site is virtually the cesspool of Coomassie, and a large and unanticipated expenditure has had to be incurred in drainage which, from a sanitary point of view, will be of ultimate advantage. Even so it has been found necessary to float the principal buildings on ferro concrete rafts as no sound bottom could be reached for foundations.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

122. No separate statistics for Ashanti are available. The various services were satisfactorily maintained during the year, but a good deal more use might be made of the Government Transport along the Coomassie-Tamale Road.

SURVEYS.

23. The Topographical framework has been carried from Accra to the hills surrounding Lake Bosomtwi in the Southern portion of Ashanti and the arrival of a working party of Topographical Branch in Ashanti next season is anxiously awaited by the Chiefs.

During the year surveys were made of Town sites on the Coomassie-Tafo Railway and various lands the subject of litigation. Heavy and prolonged rains interfered with work in the field from June to October.

GENERAL.

124. At the beginning of the year, Ashanti was divided into two Provinces, the Eastern and Western, in place of the four Provinces established under the Administration Ordinance, 1902.

Mr. Griffith and Mr. Pott, Provincial Commissioners, retired on pension during the year. Mr. Erbynn, Chief Clerk, also retired. He had been associated with Ashanti since 1895. Mr. Erbynn was made a Member of the Imperial Service Order on the King's Birthday, and Mr. Harper was awarded a Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George on the 22nd December.

C. H. HARPER,
Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page.

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1106	Seychelles	1920
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hongkong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	,,
1117	Cyprus	1921
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,
1128	St. Vincent	,,
1129	St. Helena	,,
1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1200.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1922-23.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1142.)

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REPORT ON ASHANTI

FOR 1922—23.

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REPORT ON ASHANTI FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1st, 1922, TO MARCH 31st, 1922.

REVENUE.

1. Local Receipts for the period amounted to £22,271 3s. 0d.

Of this amount the most important items were :—

	£	s.	d.
Motor Licences	354	2	0
Spirit Licences	3,085	0	0
Court Fines and Fees	2,017	5	2
Rent of Government land	4,255	9	10
Mining Royalties	7,457	9	5

2. Import duties on goods entered at Seccondee for Ashanti during the period amounted to £23,009. There are no Statistics available on Exports.

3. The quantity of Cocoa railed from Stations in Ashanti during the period is as follows :—

Tonnage—22,161; Freight—£85,294.

No Statistics are available for Kola during the period.

EXPENDITURE.

4. Local Expenditure for all Departments amounted to £70,433 8s. 8d.

TRADE.

5. The value of goods cleared at Seccondee for Ashanti during the period was £94,741.

MINING INDUSTRY.

6. The amount of gold recovered from Ashanti during the period was 22,133.42 ounces valued at £94,022 14s. 7d.

The amount of labour employed is as follows :—

European.	Native.
87	4,555

LEGISLATION.

7. Four Ordinances were enacted during the period. The most important ones were :—

Ordinance No. 2 of 1922 which applies to Ashanti, the Foreign Companies (Preferential Creditors), Ordinance No. 18 of 1906 as enacted for the Gold Coast Colony.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1922 which amended the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance, 1921, by the enforcement in Ashanti of Maintenance Orders made in other British possessions.

8. The following Order was also made :—

No. 1 of 1922—by the Governor—appointing the Conservator of Forests to perform all the acts of the Treasurer with respect to Timber Concessions and the Secretary for Mines with respect to other Concessions.

JUDICIAL.

9. The number of cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti during the period is as under :—

Eastern Province.

	Civil.	Criminal.
Provincial Commissioner's	5	—
District Commissioner, Coomassie	19	118
District Commissioner, Obuasi	123	170
District Commissioner, Juaso	46	97
District Commissioner, Ejura	37	39

Western Province.

District Commissioner, Kintampo ..	7	37
District Commissioner, Sunyani	14	42
District Commissioner, Goaso	10	4
District Commissioner, Wenchi	22	36
Police Magistrate's	645	171
Circuit Judge's	13	18
Chief Commissioner's	2	—

Fees and Fines of Court during the period amounted to £2,217 17s. 2d.

POLICE.

10. The average strength of the Police Force in Ashanti during the period was 250.

The number of Offences reported to the Police was 229.

11. The number of Police prosecutions was 623, resulting in 439 convictions.

PRISONS.

12. The following are the Statistics of the Prisons in Ashanti during the period :—

	Admitted.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Escaped.
Coomassie	232	183	10	4
Obuasi	95	70	—	1
Juaso	8	10	—	—
Kintampo	16	9	8	—
Sunyani	24	9	—	—
Ejura	25	16	3	2

CHAS. E. D. O. REW,

Acting Chief Commissioner,
Ashanti.

REPORT ON ASHANTI FOR THE YEAR 1922-1923.

1. The Gold Coast Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories, are treated for financial purposes as one. It is not possible, therefore, to do more than endeavour to arrive at an approximate estimate of the financial position of Ashanti.

REVENUE.

2. Local Receipts amounted to £63,866 12s. 7d. against £57,200. Of this amount the most important items were:—

	1922–3. £ s. d.	1921. £
Motor Licences	2,576 15 0	1,770
Spirit Licences	6,291 10 0	5,900
Court Fines and Fees ..	9,313 7 9	8,700
Rent of Govt. land ..	7,510 17 7	7,150
Mining Royalties	20,260 1 9	15,000

All the above items show an increase, particularly in Mining Royalties which increased by over £5,000.

3. Import duties on goods entered at Seccondee for Ashanti:—

	1922–3. £	1921. £
	116,901	112,000
On Exports ..	22,974	37,000

4. Quantities of Kola and Cocoa railed during the period under review:—

	1922–3. £	1921. £
Kola	3,003	2,300
Cocoa	47,284	44,000

The freight on these two items alone amounted to £185,921, so that a fair estimate of the proportion of Railway gross receipts which can be credited to Ashanti would be not less than £285,000.

5. The revenue of Ashanti from sources easily assignable is roughly as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Local Receipts ..	63,866	0	0
Import duties ..	116,901	0	0
Railway Receipts ..	285,000	0	0
Export duties ..	22,974	0	0
Total ..	488,741	0	0

6. In addition to the above, a share of Post Office Revenue and of the Interest on general account should be credited to Ashanti.

EXPENDITURE.

7. The local Expenditure for all Departments was approximately—

1922–3.	1921.
£	£
236,201	232,200

FINANCIAL POSITION.

8. As in 1921, so in 1922–23, Ashanti appears not only to have paid its way, but to have also made a handsome contribution to the general development of the Gold Coast.

TRADE.

9. As was pointed in the 1921 Report, the Overseas trade of Ashanti differs little from that of the Gold Coast Colony, which is dealt with by the Comptroller of Customs in his Annual Trade Report. The value of goods cleared at Seccondee for Ashanti was approximately—

1922–3.	1921.
£	£
550,650	721,000

In addition, the trade going North amounted to—

48,457 loads of Kola.
19,179 loads of English trade goods.
15,738 loads of Cloth.
15,509 loads of Kerosene.

Loads are about 60 lbs. each.

10. With regard to local trade, the Commissioner of the Eastern Province reports as follows :—

> "Trade in general shows beyond dispute that the tide is turning. No startling increase can be pointed out, but a steady improvement on last year is reported, although the natives appear to have at length controlled the wild exuberance which followed the boom year in cocoa, and now spend their money in a more sensible and level-headed manner."

"A marked increase was seen in the trade passing through Ejura to the North."

From the Western Province comes the same encouraging report, for the Commissioner writes :—

"On the whole there has been a decided increase in trade."

AGRICULTURE.

11. The improvement of Cocoa has been the great aim of the Department, whose Officers have travelled widely on tours of instruction. In this connection the Provincial Superintendent of Agriculture reports as follows :—

"The weather of the year calls for comment. Conditions entirely favourable to plant growth were experienced during April, May and June. An exceptionally dry period of about six weeks duration then set in. This was succeeded by a moist September and a very wet October.

"The 1922 cocoa crop would not be any more than an average one. The drought referred to above, though not very pronounced in the forest country, affected the yield to some extent. Comparison of this year's Coomassie Station cocoa records with those of the previous year show : —

"(*a*) A considerably decreased yield in the case of three of the five varieties grown there.

"(*b*) That a greater number of pods were required to give 1lb. of dry cocoa.

"In comparing these records it has to be remembered of course that the 1921 crop in Ashanti was an exceptionally good one.

"When we come to survey the course of other factors affecting the industry the situation offers a more favourable aspect.

"The Coomassie market maintained a level of 12s. to 14s. 6d. per load of 60 lbs. throughout the season. The opening of the Coomassie-Juaso Railway has greatly extended the remunerative area eastward from Coomassie (the Juaso farmer is now receiving 3s. to 4s. per load more than he was wont to do in former years).

"The year has also witnessed a slight reduction in the cost of motor transport. Last year this figure was quoted at $1\frac{1}{8}$ per load mile.

"This year it has been slightly under 1d.

"The combined effect of these factors has been to endanger a continuous and more wide spread interest in cocoa cultivation, and so to create a more favourable atmosphere for the Agricultural Officer to work in. Progress continues to be manifested in the erection of box fermentaries. The response to our efforts in this connection has been satisfactory.

"The general quality of cocoa this year, taking the season throughout, will compare favourably with that of previous years. At the beginning of the season, certainly it was scarcely up to the desired standard. This was due mainly to the unpropitious weather conditions which prevailed during October.

"Entirely dependent on favourable weather conditions for the drying of his product, the farmer is placed at a great disadvantage when these are unfavourable. The drying process is prolonged and even then the product may be insufficiently dried. In such a condition it readily becomes mouldy when in storage. With the advent of the dry season a distinct improvement took place, and with good prices maintaining the farmer had little inducement to withhold his cocoa from the market. Consequently the bulk of the crop passed into merchants' hands while still in good fresh condition."

12. The Superintendent reports further that while cocoa diseases show no appreciable sign of increase, they do not on the other hand show any sign of abatement.

Pod diseases are still widely distributed.

KOLA.

13. Kola continues to attract the attention of Farmers, but actual statistics of the total production of Ashanti are not available.

The price at the end of the year at the principal Kola centres north and north west of Coomassie was approximately 7s. 6d. per 1,000 nuts a reduction of 25 per cent. on the last year's figures.

FOOD STUFFS.

14. With the exception of the larger centres of population, such as Coomassie, all places even in the cocoa area are practically self supporting in the staple food commodities.

Coomassie's supplies, other than those drawn from immediately surrounding villages, come from the villages along the Ejura-Attabubu motor road. The latter district lies outside the cocoa belt, and consequently is entirely dependent in this form of Agriculture as a source of revenue. It is, however, eminently suited for the growth of such crops. That the people appreciate this fact and are fully alive to its possibilities, is evidenced by the large areas under cultivation at the various villages along the route.

SHEA BUTTER.

15. The Provincial Superintendent of Agriculture gives some interesting details of the records of yields of butter from individual trees growing at

(*a*) EJURA.

(*b*) KRATCHI.

(*a*) EJURA.

Tree.	1	2	3	4	5	6
No. of nuts	49	5	25	21	9	31

Yields are considerably less than those recorded from the same trees last year.

(*b*) KRATCHI.

Tree.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No. of nuts	740	1,056	80	500	2,100	93	47	350	213	80

Average—approximately 600 per tree.

The above figures cannot be taken as representing the natural productive capacity of the trees in the two districts. Appreciation must be given to density of trees. Where density is low, the destructive influence of animals that feed on the maturing fruits is proportionately greater. At Ejura, the density of shea butter is about three trees per acre. At Kratchi, where the recorded trees are situated, the density is about 10 to 15 per acre.

16. An Agricultural Show and Farm Competition was held in the Ashanti-Akim District during the year. These events were inaugurated by the Agricultural and Commercial Society, but the greater part of the work in connection with them devolved on the Officers of the Agricultural Department.

At the Agricultural Show, 389 exhibits were brought forward for competition in the various classes.

199 entries were obtained for the Farm Competition.

Three rounds of inspection of the Competitors' farms were made.

AGRICULTURAL STATION.

17. The area was increased by 12 acres—two for Power Alcohol Rotation experiment, and 10 acres for a compound round the new Learners' Quarters. The whole area is now approximately 40 acres. Excellent work is being done and the pupils show considerable promise under the instruction of Mr. Hunter, the Head of the School, who has succeeded in imparting to the pupils a measure of his own keenness.

MINING INDUSTRY.

18. The amount of gold recovered from Ashanti in 1922–3 was 72,769·84 ounces, valued at £309,126 19s. 5d., as against 85·019 ounces in 1921, valued at £361,360. The only Mines which produce gold are the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, and the Obuasie (Obuom) Mine.

19. The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry in Ashanti is as follows :—

Europeans	..	81
Natives ..	..	3,233

LEGISLATION.

20. Eight Ordinances were enacted during the period under review.

The most important ones were :—

No. 6. An Ordinance for the detention in and deportation from Ashanti of one Kobina Essubonten, Jasiwahene of Coomassie.

No. 10. An Ordinance applying to Ashanti the following Gold Coast Colony Ordinances, viz. :—

(*a*) The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance.

(*b*) The British Judgments Ordinance, 1922.

21. The following Rules, Orders and Regulations were also made :—

Rule 1 of 1922—Under the Motor Traffic Ordinance with respect to maximum weights of Motor Cars and Carriages on public thoroughfares.

2 „ Under the Motor Traffic Ordinance with respect to the renewal of Licences for Motor Car or Carriage.

2 of 1923—Under the Ashanti Administration Ordinance with respect to report on Prisoners whose lives are likely to be endangered by continued confinement in Prison.

No. 2 „ by the Governor. Under the Motor Traffic Ordinance with respect to weights permitted to be carried by Cars, etc., on public thoroughfares.

No. 3 of 1923— Under the Golden Stool of Ashanti (Detention and Deportation of Desecrators) Ordinance, ordering the detention of Seniagya and others.

No. 4 „ *Re* deportation and detention at Ho in Togoland of Kobina Essubonten.

No. 5 of 1923— Under the Vaccination Ordinance amending Order No. 8 of 1921 and applying the Order to persons within certain Villages in the Eastern Province of Ashanti.

No. 1 ,, by the C.C.A. *Re* appointment of Marriage Officers.

No. 2 of 1923— *Re* appointment of the Roman Catholic Priest in Charge of the Mission to be a Marriage Officer.

Order No. 1 of ,, by the Governor. With respect to the extension of the British Judgments Ordinance to Judgments obtained in the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Regulation 1 of 1923. Under the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1921, with respect to the prohibition of Firearms and Ammunition by post.

No. 3 of 1923. Under the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance—Amendment of the 7th Schedule to Regulation No. 7 of 1921 by the addition of Lead in the Warehousing rates of Firearms and Ammunition.

JUDICIAL.

22. The number of cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti is as under :—

EASTERN PROVINCE.

	Civil.	Criminal.
Provincial Commissioner's	25	—
District Commissioner, Coomassie ..	95	542
do. Obuasi.. ..	717	1,078
do. Juaso	176	273
do. Ejura	150	408

WESTERN PROVINCE.

District Commissioner, Kintampo ..	12	121
do. Sunyani ..	64	152
do. Goaso ..	—	48
do. Wenchi ..	63	224
Police Magistrate's	1,503	881
Circuit Judge's	53	76
Chief Commissioner's	10	—
	2,868	3,803

These figures show an increase of 308 in Civil Cases and a decrease of 2,192 in Criminal Cases as compared with those for the previous year.

Fees and Fines amounted to £7,885 or a decrease of £564 as compared with the figures for the previous year.

CONCESSIONS.

23. Four new Concessions were filed during the period under review, viz :—

Name of Concession.	No. of Enquiry.	Date of Filing Notice.
Edubia	171	1–6–1922.
Domi-Kenyago	172	1–6–1922.
Abankumi River	173	17–8–1922.
Abankumi Hill	174	17–8–1922.

POLICE.

24. The average strength of the Police Force in Ashanti during the period under review was 250. Owing to the rapid growth of Bekwai and Juaso Districts more Police are still required. The number of Offences reported to the Police was 1,256.

25. The number of Police prosecutions was 1,729, resulting in 1,596 Convictions.

26. As in 1921, there is nothing but praise for the work done by the Police.

PRISONS.

27. The following are the Statistics of the Prisons in Ashanti:—

	Admitted.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Escaped.
Coomassie	839	737	108	4
Obuasi ..	359	289	10	4
Juaso ..	110	100	10	1
Kintampo	75	64	3	2
Sunyani ..	74	83	13	1
Ejura ..	158	40	3	—

The health of the Prisoners has been uniformly good.

Large quantities of maize and other food-stuffs are grown on the Prison Farm in Coomassie, and it is hoped that in time the Prison will be self-supporting. The Prisons at Ejura and Juaso and—in a lesser degree—Sunyani are of a " bush " type. The Coomassie Prison is about to be enlarged.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

28. In Coomassie itself there are stationed :—

An Acting Assistant Director of Medical Service.

A Medical Officer.

A Medical Officer of Health.

There are Medical Officers at Kintampo and Sunyani in the Western Province.

At Obuasi, by arrangement with the Manager of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, the Mines Doctor takes charge of Government officials.

The Railway Construction had the services of a Medical Officer throughout the period under review, and he was withdrawn at the end of March as his services were no longer needed.

The health of European and Native officials has been on the whole satisfactory.

29. There were three deaths and 12 invalidings during the period under review. There were five cases of blackwater fever with two deaths, compared with six cases and two deaths in 1921.

The principal causes of deaths were mainly, dysentery seven; pneumonia, phthisis and other lung conditions 28; general injuries 15.

30. There were 194 admissions to the European ospital as against 172 in 1921.

The European population of Coomassie is about 260. The accommodation provided in the Native Hospital is ample, but an extension to provide accommodation for women in the European Hospital is required.

SANITATION.

31. The Sanitary Staff in Coomassie consists of :—

1 Medical Officer.
1 Superintending Sanitary Inspector.
1 2nd Class Inspector.
4 3rd Class Inspectors
2 Probationers.

This Staff is inadequate and it is hoped that funds will permit of an increase in the near future.

32. The following figures give the Statistics for vaccination :—

Total number vaccinated in Coomassie and neighbourhood	20,471
Total number successful in Coomassie and neighbourhood	10,774
Total number vaccinated in outlying districts	17,429
" " successful " "	7,360

Roughly 1,272,567 square yards of land were cleared of weeds by the Sanitary Department during the period under review.

33. Household refuse is carried in handcarts and by head-loads to various incinerators scattered in various parts of the town. There are 21 of these incinerators. The system works well, but the incinerators constitute a serious nuisance to the householders in the near neighbourhood. The Chief Commissioner writes in his Report for 1921: — " The time has arrived for a modern high pressure destructor and more suitable transport, " and I can only emphasize his words.

34. With regard to drainage the Medical Officer of Health reports :—

" 1. **Subsoil**—Nil.

" 2. **Surface**—is the chief form of drainage in Coomassie and the drains are mostly made of earth. The drainage is very primitive for a town like Coomassie and requires early attention. Some of the so-called drains are so deep that they form an excellent place for the inhabitants to dump their rubbish in with the result that they become more of a nuisance than anything else.

" Owing to the absence of a water supply, it is impossible to flush out drains so that even concrete drains, which are the only kind worth considering, are not so easy to keep as clean as might be imagined."

35. House to house inspections are carried out daily and 34,063 houses were inspected during the period under review; 500 persons were summoned for having Mosquito larvae on their premises and 849 for insanitary conditions.

36. For water Coomassie is dependent on shallow Wells. The Medical Officer of Health writes in connection with the above, " Such supply is not constant and the quality is very poor, the latter statement

having been proved by a bacteriological examination which showed B. Coli in one C.C., thus indicating high pollution."

To supplement the poor supply, Tanks are being fitted to the bungalows, and this will relieve the situation considerably.

37. Sewage is carried out by convicts who take the latrine pans to entrenching areas where the contents are buried. The method is not satisfactory, as the full latrine pans are to be met in the main streets. All building Permits and Plans are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health for his approval.

Fortunately for Coomassie, a European Building Inspector has been in residence, with the result that the construction of new buildings is properly supervised.

38. The rainfall during the year amounted to 65.25 inches.

The wettest months were :—

June	.. ..	with	7.91 inches.
September	.. ..	,,	8.39 inches.
October	.. ..	,,	12.87 inches.

The year 1921 recorded the heaviest rainy season for many years with 66.94 inches.

The year 1922–23 was not far short of that total.

39. There were 397 deaths among the native inhabitants out of a population of 20,000. Of this :—

55 died aged one year and under.
28 died aged over one year and under five.
314 died aged over five years.

40. In the year 1922–23 there were slaughtered in the Coomassie Slaughter House :—

3,113 Cattle.
1,707 Sheep.
2,400 Goats
252 Pigs.

The fees collected for above amounted to £575 8s. 6d.

EDUCATION.

41. Education remains in the hands of the Government and the Missions.

Government Schools are established at Coomassie, Juaso in the Eastern Province, and Sunyani in the Western Province.

In addition to the Government Schools there are 25 Mission Schools receiving grants-in-aid

There are approximately 110 non-assisted Mission Schools

The enrolment and average attendance of the Government and Assisted Schools are shown in the following table :—

Description of School.	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
A.M.E. Zion Mission	109	84
Church of England Mission	279	239
Roman Catholic Mission	667	590
Scottish Mission	948	811
Wesleyan Mission	911	755
Government	814	730
Totals	3,728	3,209

Of the number of children in the Government and Assisted Schools 3,329 are Boys and 399 are Girls.

There are approximately 2,250 Ashanti pupils in the Government and Assisted Schools.

42. The Statistics of the Mission Schools are :—

	Schools.	Scholars.
Wesleyan Mission	64	2,489
Roman Catholic Mission	24	1,206
Scottish Mission	28	1,337
Church of England Mission	3	345
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Mission	4	236
Seventh Day Adventist Mission ..	11	568

43. The Boy Scout Movement is growing rapidly, and the great possibilities of the movement being attached to the Schools is fully appreciated.

44. **Recreation Grounds**—The Provincial Inspector of Schools reports as follows :—

> " The provision of suitable recreation grounds for the children attending several of the Coomassie Schools is a matter which presents considerable difficulty, but the important part which sports play in education is recognized, and every endeavour is being made to overcome the difficulty. During the period under review the Government and Assisted Schools in Coomassie have taken part in football league competition, and the matches have been supervised by selected referees."

45. The interest taken in Schools continues to make steady progress in the Eastern Province, and a considerable increase in the enrolment will take place as soon as more accommodation is provided and less difficulty is experienced by the Missions in obtaining the services of Certificated Teachers.

Of the number of Children attending the Government and Assisted Schools only 193 boys and 19 girls are in the Western Province. It will be seen that so far as this Province is concerned, education is in a backward condition.

46. The foundation Stone of the new Wesleyan College for Teachers was laid by His Excellency, the Governor, during the year. It is situated two miles away from Coomassie.

The land was most generously given to the Mission by Chief Yaw Dabanka of Taffo as a free grant.

47. A Provincial Office was opened at Coomassie in May, 1922, previous to which the Educational Administration of Ashanti had been conducted from Accra. One advantage derived from this change will be a closer study of educational matters peculiar to Ashanti.

RELIGION.

48. There are six Missions established in Ashanti viz :—

The Church of England with a membership of 405 baptized Christians and few Catechumens at Coomassie and 325 Christians and over 100 Catechumens at the Outstations.

The Scottish Mission with 3,119 in their Christian community and 548 Adherents.

The A.M.E. Zion Mission with a membership of 617 Christians.

The Seventh Day Adventists with a membership of 175 baptized Christians.

The Roman Catholic Mission with a membership of 4,250 baptized Converts 8,000 Catechumens and 200 Adherents.

The Wesleyan Mission with a membership of 4,885 baptized Converts and 6,176 under instruction.

In March 1923, two Benedictine Monks (Cowley Fathers) arrived in Coomassie and took over charge of the Church of England Mission in Ashanti.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

49. Mr. Rattray, M.B.E., continued the work of his Department with excellent results.

While on leave recently Mr. Rattary spent four months at Oxford working up the material which had been collected in the field during the preceding twelve months. This material is embodied in a Volume entitled " ASHANTI " now in the Press, and it is this Volume, Mr. Rattray states, which will stand as his complete Annual Report.

Towards the cost of publication of this Volume the Oxford University Press voted a sum of £200, and in addition decided to give a free issue of 50 copies of the book to the Gold Coast Government.

PUBLIC WORKS.

50. The sum of £3,676 was spent on current repairs, and the Government Bungalows are being gradually and methodically put into repair.

Under Public Works Extraordinary the principal expenditure was as follows :—

Attabubu-Yeji Road	£2,000
Roads in Coomassie	994
Bridges and labour	999
Coomassie Surface Drainage ..	1,984

A new Bungalow is in course of erection for the Chief Commissioner, Ashanti, and on this £4,000 was spent during the period under review.

ROADS.

51. District roads amounted to 532 miles, nearly all in the Eastern Province of Ashanti. 57 miles of new motorable roads were under construction, mainly in the Coomassie District, but were not entirely thrown open to traffic by the end of the year.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

52. The fleet was reduced from 94 Lorries and Cars in 1921, to six Cars and Lorries.

Comparative Statistics are as follows :—

	1921.	1922–23
Passengers	1,350	695
Loads	14,566	15,545
Cars and Lorries sent out ..	1,681	396

53. There were 4,649 loads delivered in Coomassie, and 4,964 loads moved for officers arriving and leaving, so the Department may be considered to have done very well.

54. Transport of loads to Tamale was let out to contract

The following are the figures for loads carried by Contractors :—

Passengers	525
Loads	10,991
Cars and Lorries sent out	319

RAILWAYS.

55. The outwards goods Traffic carried between Ashanti Stations during the period ending 31st March, 1923, amounted to 54,407 tons.

The inward Traffic amounted to 37,921 tons as against 34,280 in 1921.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

56. The Chief Resident Engineer reports as follows :—

"Rails are now linked up between Accra and Seccondee. The first Engine passed over the newly connected TAFO-COOMASSIE Railway on March 30th, 1923.

"The line was handed over to revenue earning between Coomassie and Juaso on October 30th, 1922, and the remaining portion of the Railway will be open to public goods and passenger traffic in July or August this year."

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

57. There are no separate Statistics for Ashanti.

The District Surveyor reports as follows :—

"A new Post Office is in course of construction at Juaso, and further new Offices will be opened as the Railway advances."

SURVEYS.

58. Three Topographical Survey Sections have been employed on the topographical survey of Ashanti. By the 31st March, 1923, 5,000 miles of topographical survey had been completed and the Coomassie and Fumso Standard Sheets had been handed in by Field Camps for final checking prior to being sent to Accra for publication. A large amount of field work has been completed in the OBUASI, JUASO, EFFIDUASI and MAMPON areas.

GENERAL.

59. Captain G. A. E. POOLE, M.B.E., retired on pension during the period under review.

60. The writer first saw Coomassie towards the end of the year, 1897. At that time there were no European Firms established in Coomassie. To-day there are 28.

These firms have erected some very fine buildings, and there are now two Banks established in the town.

61. The town itself has increased enormously in area, but roads and the amenities which a thriving and growing town demands, are absent. Once penetrate into the new parts of the town, and driving in a car becomes hazardous and even impossible. A sum of £50,000 would not be too much to spend in road making and drainage.

A scheme for a water supply lacks only funds for its development.

62. An electric light and an ice plant are needed. There should also be a Club House and Recreation Ground.

These things seem overdue, but will doubtless come in time. There is a scheme for the formation of a Coomassie Municipal Council, which, when it materializes, should do good work.

CHAS. E. D. O. REW,

Lieut. Colonel,

Acting Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

Colonial Reports, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1165	Sierra Leone	1922
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	1922
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922–1923
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1252.

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REPORT FOR 1923-24.

(For Report for 1922–23 see No. 1200.)

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REPORT ON ASHANTI

FOR 1923—24.

GOLD COAST:

Government Printing Department Accra.

1924.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON ASHANTI, 1923-1924.

FINANCIAL.

Ashanti is constitutionally separate and distinct from the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories, but so far as Finance is concerned, all three are treated as a single unit. It is, therefore, impossible to estimate the Revenue and Expenditure, except those items which are purely local.

REVENUE.

2. Local receipts amounted to £56,347, which compared with £63,866 in 1922-23, and £57,200 in 1921-22, thus showing a decrease under 1922-23 of £7,519 and £853 under 1921-22.

The most important items were :—

	1923-24.	1922-23.
Motor Licences	£2,646 ...	£2,576
Spirit Licences	6,905 ...	6,291
Firearms, etc	367 ...	261
Court Fines and Fees ...	7,221 ...	9,313
Rents of Government lands ...	6,910 ...	7,510
Mining Royalties	16,235 ...	20,260

Of the above items Motor Licences, Spirit Licences and Firearms show an increased revenue, whilst Court Fines and Fees, Rent of Government land, and Mining Royalties all show a decreased revenue.

3. It is regretted that no separate statistics in respect of Import and Export for goods imported into and produce exported from Ashanti are available, and the only method of arriving at an approximate estimate would be from detailed figures supplied by the Railway showing the various classes of merchandise imported into and of produce exported from Ashanti. The quantity of produce exported from Ashanti by road is negligible, except Kola which is estimated to be approximately 3,000 tons and which goes overland to the north.

4. Railway Receipts were as follows, viz. :—

Coaching	£52,076
GOODS FROM STATIONS IN ASHANTI.	
Cocoa	239,826
Kola	8,566
General Merchandise ...	7,637
Merchandise to Stations in Ashanti	129,444
Total ...	£437,549

The Railway receipts were stated to be, for the previous year, £285,000, but as the Accra-Kumasi Railway was not completely opened for traffic until 3rd September, there can be no true comparison between the year under review and the previous years.

5. In former years it has been stated in the Annual Reports: a share of the Post Office Revenue and of interest on general account should be credited to Ashanti. "Also the Revenue of Ashanti from sources is easily assignable". The writer does not agree with the latter statement and therefore omits from this report any estimates which on investigation may be ascertained to be unreliable.

EXPENDITURE.

6. The local expenditure in Ashanti for all departments, except Railway expenditure for which no separate figures are kept for Ashanti, was £233,176 as compared with £236,201 during the previous year, a decrease of £3,025 and a small increase of £976 as compared with 1921-22.

The principal items of expenditure were:—

	1923–24.	1922–23.
Political Administration ...	£32,110 ...	£31,714
Medical and Sanitary Services	29,394 ...	32,108
Gold Coast Regiment ...	36,591 ...	50,748
Public Works Department ...	15,181 ...	17,043
Public Works Annually Recurrent	25,389 ...	27,228
Public Works Extraordinary, including special expenditure	44,042 ...	14,163

As compared with the previous year the Political Administration showed a small increase, and the Public Works Extraordinary, including Special Expenditure, showed a very large increase, whilst Medical and Sanitary Services, Gold Coast Regiment, Public Works Department and Public Works Annually Recurrent all show considerable decreases. These items of expenditure do not call for detailed criticism.

TRADE.

7. The oversea trade of Ashanti consists of practically the same goods as that of the Gold Coast Colony and is fully reported on by the Comptroller of Customs in his Annual Trade Report of the Gold Coast.

The value of the goods imported overseas into Ashanti and the value of the produce exported from Ashanti are not declared in Ashanti, but at the shipping ports, and are not treated separately. There is no obligation on Importers and Exporters to declare the value and numbers of goods imported into and exported from Ashanti. The only figures available to indicate the course of trade are the tonnage figures supplied by the Railway, which are fully set out under the Head of Railway in this Report. A certain amount of local trade is carried on overland, the principal import being cattle and the principal export being Kola. The articles of

other imports and exports overland are negligible. There is no Customs Preventive Service in Ashanti and, therefore, there are no certain well defined routes, except the motor roads which lead to the North and West. On certain of these roads, for instance at Kintampo, the police record the number of cattle and sheep which pass through the station, and it was reported that 6,423 head of cattle and 28,904 head of sheep passed through Kintampo last year, going south to the Kumasi and other markets. Again, at Ejura the Provincial Commissioner reports "the number of four gallon tins of kerosene which passed through Ejura during the year *en route* for the Northern Territories was nearly 2,000 more than the previous year and double that of the year 1921." The figures given for 1921 were 1,800 loads of kerosene, a load of kerosene being two four gallon tins. Such figures are, however, unreliable, and cannot be accepted as accurate. Kintampo is not the only route for cattle from the North, and the owners of cattle are not bound to enter the country at any particular point. Further, almost all the trade going North (except Kola) such as Cottons, Kerosene and imported goods is now principally conveyed by motors, whereas last year and previous years a much larger proportion was conveyed by head loads.

The Provincial Commissioners' reports, however, may be of interest.

The Commissioner Eastern Province reports :—

"Trade is reported to have shown an improvement on last year. The natives bought, but bought quietly. The sales which are regulated more or less by the price of cocoa, which was down nearly to the pre-war level, did not admit of buying many things which were still priced well above the 1914 figures. Besides the numerous European firms which operate in Ashanti. a larger number of Syrians, Lagosians and Hausas are engaged in trading. The Syrians seem to be increasing in number, wealth, and influence."

The Commissioner Western Province reports :—

"Trade has shown a decided improvement in the vicinity of the motor roads. For instance, the people of Chirrah on the Sunyani-Wenchi Road state that last year they could not sell their cocoa, while owing to the opening of this road this year, they have disposed of all their available cocoa at prices ranging from 3/- to 5/- a load.

"The opening of the Sunyani-Kumasi Road should result in a very considerable increase of trade, for it taps the most productive cocoa area in the Province, and the European firms there intend opening establishments at Sunyani and elsewhere in the Province."

AGRICULTURE.

8. It has been remarked that cocoa is the foundation of the peace and prosperity of Ashanti. The Government is, however, not confining its attention to the cultivation of cocoa only. There are in Ashanti three Agricultural Stations, viz. :—Kumasi, Juaso, the Headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District, and Ejura, the pre-

sent Headquarters of the Mampong District. Various experiments were conducted at all these Stations with indigenous and introduced crops. An innovation introduced during the year, which may have far-reaching results in the future, was a series of manurial experiments with cocoa, but at the end of the year the results of the experiment were not known.

In addition to these Agricultural Stations, six Senior Officers were engaged on itinerant instructional work during the year. Much good work was done in this connection and almost every village in the Eastern Province was visited and the more important centres in the Western Province. Further, fifteen Africans trained in cocoa cultivation were also constantly employed and all the villages in the cocoa areas were visited. It is gratifying to record that these instructions were welcomed by the people. They did much to improve the general condition of farms and, it is hoped, the quality of the prepared product. The steadily increasing number of fermentaries was largely due to their efforts and assistance.

Cocoa.

9. The crop throughout was good and in excess of the previous year, but the quality was not marked by any appreciable improvement. Early in the season the price was below normal, but improved later and remained fairly steady. As the result of the twelve months working the tonnage carried on the railway serves to give a good idea of the actual contribution which Ashanti makes towards the actual exports from the Gold Coast Colony. The quantity carried by the rail was 61,176 tons, an increase of 6,769 tons over the tonnage for the previous year. Under the auspices of the Gold Coast Agricultural and Commercial Society a "Cocoa Farm Competition" and a very successful Agricultural Show were held at Bekwai in December. There were three hundred entrants for the Cocoa Farm Competition and a very large number of people attended the show.

10. It is of interest to record that the only Agricultural Plantation owned and managed by Europeans is that of the Abomposu Estates, which is situated some six miles south-east of Akrokerri, in a well watered valley, which is admirably sheltered by surrounding hills.

The Estate is owner-managed and worked on strict business lines. Sufficient attention has been given to the preparation of the cocoa crop that it sold in Liverpool as a first class product, and disposed of under the "A" clause.

11. The rates charged for transport of cocoa by motor lorries varied between 1/3 and 1/11 per ton mile, the lesser rate being charged on main roads where heavy lorries were used. There has been little fluctuation since April, 1923, although the cost of transport was lower than during the preceding year. A considerable amount of transport was done by Syrians, who have a large and increasing fleet of motor lorries in Kumasi and who were able to cut prices.

12. Cocoa areas generally were extended during the year, particularly in the Mampong and Kumawu Divisions. The Omanhene of Adansi made Rules for the control of the farm extension, but no report has been received whether these Rules were enforced.

13. Diseases and pests are all too common in Ashanti and the difficulty is to find economic means of control which the farmers can, and will, apply systematically. Every encouragement was given to the farmers, as in the past, to increase the resistance of their trees by good husbandry, but natural enemies attacking the bark and pods, lower the vitality of the trees, leaving open wounds for the ingress of countless spores.

Oil Palms.

14. Special efforts were made during the year to encourage attention to this valuable indigenous crop. Propaganda work in this connection was carried out by both the Political and Agricultural Officers, the object being to ensure the preservation of existing Palms and to induce the farmers to plant additional trees. The more intelligent Chiefs, appreciating the necessity of this, made Rules providing that Palm Trees should only be cut down when necessary and that if a Palm Tree is cut down two seedlings should be planted for each adult specimen destroyed.

Coffee.

15. A bonus scheme was formulated during the year to encourage the cultivation of this crop and the Amanhin were asked to establish plots on their Stool Lands.

Kola.

16. This indigenous crop is of very considerable value to Ashanti and is of more importance than is generally realised. During the year under review planting of the White variety was recommended because the white nut realises higher prices than the red nut. It was difficult to arrive at a reliable estimate of the approximate quantity and value of the crop as available figures were for main trade routes only and these are not always reliable. The average value during the year was about £37 per ton and the approximate estimated total which left Ashanti was 6,000 tons : 2,983 tons of which were railed to the ports of Sekondi and Accra. The industry is entirely in the hands of the Africans.

Food Crop.

17. There was an appreciable improvement in the supply of food crops, and farm areas were extended considerably throughout localities within easy reach of roads and railways.

FORESTRY.

18. In July, 1923, the Headquarters of the Forestry Department was transferred from Kumasi to Accra, and Ashanti was created a Provincial Station. The Chiefs and others are gradually beginning to recognise the importance of Forest reservation and

progress was made towards the creation of Forest Reserves during the year. There were two Forest Reserves in Ashanti at the end of the year, viz:—Mankrang-Offin and Formang-Su.

Mankrang-Ofin Reserve.

19. The area of this Reserve, which was estimated at 216 square miles, was reduced in September to its present size of about 65 square miles. Unfortunately the northern portion, which was extensively cultivated had to be abandoned on that account. This reduced area was demarcated during the period under review by a line 42½ miles long and ten feet wide cut round it, the trees on the line blazed, dracæna cuttings planted at 100 feet apart, and numbered cairns erected at corners and at points where the lines crossed important paths: The settlement of the Chief's boundaries within this area remained to be settled at the end of the year.

Formang-Su Reserve.

20. The Rules for the creation of this Reserve were signed in June last, the area was again inspected and reported on, and the demarcation of the artificial boundaries commenced in February. At the end of the year this, with the exception of a short line consequent on the alteration of the original boundary, was completed. Approximately 7½ miles of line was cut, cairns erected and dracæna cuttings planted.

Ejian Plantation.

21. The Teak Plantation three to five acres in area which was started in 1912 made satisfactory progress and again received attention, which it lacked for some time owing to the war and consequently lack of officers.

Kumasi Firewood Plantation.

22. A site was selected for this plantation to the south of the Agricultural Station. The land will be acquired in due course.

Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre.

23. The Training of Learners at Kumasi Agricultural Station is now a separate branch of the Department of Agricultural activities. The Station, owing to the number of experiments being carried out and variety of crops grown, presents unique facilities for the study of Agriculture and Forestry. Thirty-one students, twenty-nine Agricultural and two Forestry, were in residence during the year.

The Superintendent's bungalow, erected near the quarters, was completed at the end of the year.

Cadbury Hall.

24. Towards the end of the year a site was selected for and construction began on the "Cadbury Hall"—the generous gift of Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, Limited, of Bournville—for Agricultural education. When completed, the building will provide a Lecture Room, Recreation Room, Laboratory, Office and Stores which will allow class work and opportunities for study that are impossible under the existing inadequate conditions.

MINING INDUSTRY.

25. The amount of gold produced during the year from mines in Ashanti was 74,490.27 ounces, valued at £316,419 6s. 8d., as against 72,769.84 ounces valued at £309,126 19s. 5d. for the previous year, which showed an increase of 1,521 ounces and £7,293 in value. The figures for the year under review however record a decrease as compared with the 1921-22. Two mines only were producing, viz:—the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, and the Obuasi Mines (Obuom), whilst Mr. O. H. Reynard restarted dredging operations in the Offin River and extracted 700 ounces of gold.

The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry was as follows:—

	Surface	Underground	Total.
Europeans	... 53	... 22	... 75
Africans	... 1,925	... 983	... 2,908

These figures show a reduction over the figures for the previous year when the numbers were 81 Europeans and 3,233 Africans.

No Mining Licences were issued during the year, but three Licences to prospect were issued.

LEGISLATION.

26. Five Ordinances were enacted during the year. These were as follows:—

Ordinance No. 3 of 1923:—An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, which applied the Gold Coast Colony Ordinance No. 13 and No. 14 of 1923.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923:—An Ordinance further to amend the Concessions Ordinance, 1903.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1923:—An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, which applied certain sections of the Gold Coast Ordinance No. 8 of 1923.

Ordinance No. 2 of 1924:—An Ordinance to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance No. 10 of 1902, which applied the Gold Coast Ordinance—The Sales by Auction Ordinance No. 29 of 1922 to Ashanti.

Three Rules under various Ordinances were made during the year, the most important being the application of the Prisons Regulations made under Section 9 of the Prisons Ordinance of the Gold Coast Colony—Cap. 34—to Ashanti.

Various Orders, Proclamations and Regulations were made during the year by the Governor, the Chief Commissioner and the Provincial Commissioners, the most important being that appointing certain officers of the Survey Department to discharge and exercise, within certain areas in Ashanti, any of the powers of an Assistant Commissioner of Police with respect to the infliction of punishment for offences against discipline under the Police Ordinance, 1922, as applied to Ashanti.

JUDICIAL.

27. The number of cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti during the year under review were as follows:—

	Civil.	Criminal.
The Chief Commissioner ...	26	—
The Circuit Judge	29	42
The Police Magistrate, Kumasi ...	1,213	1,288
EASTERN PROVINCE.		
Provincial Commissioner	13	—
District Commissioner, Kumasi ...	202	600
District Commissioner, Obuasi, including the sub-station of Bekwai	602	1,221
District Commissioner, Juaso ...	39	227
District Commissioner, Ejura ...	127	227
WESTERN PROVINCE.		
Provincial Commissioner	24	6
District Commissioner, Sunyani ...	38	139
District Commissioner, Goaso ...	27	35
District Commissioner, Kintampo ...	11	105
District Commissioner, Wenchi ...	68	84
Total ...	2,419	3,913

These total figures show a reduction of 449 civil cases as compared with the civil cases for the previous year, but an increase of 110 criminal cases.

28. With regard to the cases in the respective Courts:—

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

The number of cases in this Court shows an increase of 16 as compared with the previous year, and an increase of two as compared with 1921-1922. These cases are principally appeals from Native Tribunals, Land and Boundary Disputes, and call for no particular comment.

CIRCUIT JUDGE'S COURT.

29. *Criminal Cases.*—Criminal cases showed a marked decrease as compared with previous years, only 42 being heard as against 81 in 1922-1923, and 65 in 1921-1922.

It should be noted however, that the services of the Judge were not available from June 24th to October 26th and although very few cases were standing over when the Judge resumed duty on the latter date, it is probable that some offenders were dealt with summarily who would otherwise have been committed for trial.

Civil Cases.—Besides the ordinary applications and Motions 29 civil cases were heard, inclusive of 3 appeals from Police Magistrate's and District Commissioners' Courts. These figures show a decrease of 27 cases from the previous year and a decrease of 9

for the year 1921-1922. This may be attributed to the absence of the Judge above referred to, as during that period no summonses were issued.

Estates.—Letters of Administration were granted in 7 cases.

Sittings.—The Court sat 71 days on criminal cases and 75 days on civil cases, and Assizes Courts were held at Obuasi (twice), Wenchi (twice), Ejura and Sunyani during the year.

POLICE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, KUMASI.

30. The Civil cases show a large increase of 258 as compared with the previous year and 191 as compared with the year 1921-1922.

The Criminal cases on the other hand show a large decrease of 169, as compared with the year 1922-1923, and 1,198 as compared with 1921-1922.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S COURTS.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

31. *Civil Cases.*—It is curious that whilst in the Police Magistrate's Court the number of civil cases increased, in the Commissioner's Courts the number shows a great decrease over both 1922-1923 and 1921-1922.

The criminal cases in these Courts also show a decrease of approximately 100 in each of the three years, the figures being 2,421, 2,301 and 2,214.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

32.—*Civil Cases.*—These cases show a slight increase over the figures for the previous year, but a decrease as compared with 1921-1922, while the criminal cases show a large decrease over 1922-1923 and were considerably less than half those for 1921-1922.

33. In all Courts (except the Chief Commissioner's) the civil cases were principally for the recovery of debts and tend to show the stringency of ready money. A very noticeable feature was the extraordinary way in which persons were able to find security for their engagements. There is little doubt that, owing to this, over-credits are often given to people of no financial standing and the increase in the number of Ca Sas is a very real evil.

34. There were no serious outbreaks of crime during the year and the great majority of cases were for breaches of the sanitary laws and petty offences, such as assaults and thefts. Amongst the more serious crime, larceny and embezzlement were in the majority and almost fifty per cent. of the convicts in Kumasi Prisons were committed on those charges.

A small disturbance of a political nature, happily involving no loss of life or serious consequences, took place at Agona on 4th October. Another political disturbance of a much more serious nature took place on the 10th March between the Dadiasis and Kokofus. Three men were killed and several people were wounded. Sixty-five of the rioters were arrested and some were dealt with summarily, while others were committed to the Assizes.

35. Fees and Fines amounted to £7,221, as compared with £7,885 in the previous year and £9,513 the amount received in 1921-1922. This reduction is due to a fewer number of civil cases being heard and it also tends to show that the average amounts sued for must have been smaller than in former years.

CONCESSIONS.

36. No Certificates of Validity for Concessions were applied for during the year and none were cancelled.

POLICE.

37. The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on the 1st April, 1923, was 251, and at the end of the year 244. Members of the Force were stationed in Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Juaso, Ejura, Ejisu, Sunyani, Wenchi, Goaso and Kintampo.

The following table shows the statistics for the last three years.

	No. of offences reported to Police.	No. of Police prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.
1921-22 ...	2,343 ...	3,705 ...	3,383
1922-23 ...	1,256 ...	1,729 ...	1,596
1923-24 ...	3,064 ...	2,562 ...	2,077

At the first sight the figures for the year under review show a large increase over those for the previous year, but it is believed that the previous year's figures are those for Kumasi only and no comparison is therefore possible.

The work of the Police has been very satisfactory.

PRISONS.

38. There are six Prisons in Ashanti, viz. :—Kumasi, Obuasi, Juaso, Ejura, Kintampo, and Sunyani, also two "lock-ups" at Goaso and Wenchi. Convicted prisoners from these "lock-ups" are sent to Sunyani Prison. The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 1,095 as compared with 1,164 for the previous year, while the total number of debtor prisoners admitted during the year was 183 as compared with 134 for 1922-1923. Female prisoners are confined in Kumasi Prison only, but there is very little crime amongst women, last year the proportion of women convicts to men convicts was only .25 per cent.

39. Plans for building substantial blocks of cells and a new Female Prison for Kumasi Prison were approved during the year and this work was started in July last. At the end of the year the Female Prison and Matron's quarters were almost completed, and the outer extension walls were partly completed.

40. The Prison Farm at Kumasi was considerably extended and kept in good cultivation. The prisoners were employed on skilled and unskilled labour: the skilled labour consisting of Brick-making (all the bricks used in building the new extension of Kumasi Prison were made and burned by the prisoners), Building, Carpentry and Laundry work. The unskilled labour was employed on conservancy, clearing bush and farming. The receipts from Prison Industries averaged £70 per month. The dicipline in all the Prisons was good, and the health of the prisoners was uniformly excellent.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

41. The Medical Staff consisted of an Acting Assistant Director of Medical Services, a Medical Officer, both stationed at Kumasi, a Medical Officer stationed at Kintampo and a Medical Officer at Sunyani. A Medical Officer, who is employed by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, but who by arrangement with the Government attends to all Government Officials at Obuasi. There were four deaths and five cases of invaliding of Europeans during the year under review—two of the deaths and two of the cases of invaliding being due to Blackwater Fever.

These figures compare with three deaths and twelve cases of invaliding for the previous year and three deaths and fifteen cases of invaliding for the year 1921-1922. The admissions to the European Hospital numbered 113, as compared with 194, during the previous year and 172 for 1921.

The admissions to the Native Hospital numbered 1,972, whilst 13,564 outpatients were treated during the year. These cases were of the usual kind, Venereal disease, Yaws, Pulmonary affections, Ulcers and Malaria being the most common.

SANITATION.

42. There was no epidemic throughout the year and the health of the inhabitants was generally good. The sanitation of the towns (except Kumasi) and villages in Ashanti was satisfactory.

With the opening up of the country by motor roads new villages adjacent to the roads have been built and the old villages distant from the roads have been deserted. This forward movement is particularly noticeable in the Western Province, and is an extremely satisfactory condition of affairs. It indicates greater trust by the Ashanti in the protection of life and property, which the Administration affords, and also indicates that the Ashanti is fully alive to the greater possibilities of disposing of his products to travellers and others. These new villages with the help of the Political and Sanitary Officers are all carefully laid out with fine broad streets, open spaces and sanitary utilities. A number of these villages have already become important trade centres and their upkeep not infrequently gets beyond the control of the village authorities. Assistance from the Government is then necessary and village overseers regularly visit these villages in order to give such assistance. Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Juaso, Kintampo and Sunyani are the principal towns and the sanitation of these towns is under European and African officers.

Sanitation of Kumasi.

43. The population at the last census (1921) was 23,694 and it was estimated that the population at the end of the year was approximately 27,000. The town limits are a radius of a mile and a half from the Fort and there are buildings scattered all over this area.

The usual Preventive Measures were taken against Insect Borne disease, including Malaria, Yellow Fever, Filariasis, Infectious and Epidemic Diseases.

There was unfortunately no improvement in the quality of the Kumasi Water Supply as it is badly polluted, B.Coli being present in 0.01 cc.

There were no cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Cholera, Enteric Fever, Small Pox or Plague.

44. The following Statistics show the number of vaccinations during the year, as compared with the two previous years :— .

	1921–22.	1922–23.	1923–24.
Total number vaccinated ...	14,126	37,900	15,555
Total number successful ...	9,175	18,134	7,608

45. The general sanitary measures included the clearance of bush, the disposal of household refuse—the non-combustible materials of which were used for filling up swamps and low lying areas,—drainage, of which 302 yards of concrete drains varying from 12 to 18 inches were constructed during the year, and the disposal of sewage in the various trenching grounds within the town area. The principal sanitary improvements included repairs of the Slaughter House, a new railing around the Cattle Kraal, and the erection of two new incinerators and two new latrines.

Public Cemeteries.

46. The new cemetery was kept in good condition while the other cemeteries in the town were maintained in fair condition only.

The number of registered burials were :—

Africans	395
Europeans	3
Total ...	398

Public Slaughter Houses.

47. The following number of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were slaughtered, viz. :—

	1923–24.	1922–23.
Cattle ...	2,440	3,113
Sheep ...	1,972	1,707
Goats ...	2,392	2,400
Pigs ...	298	252

The fees collected amounted to £487 8s. 0d., as against £575 8s. 6d. for the previous year.

All carcases were regularly examined and diseased parts destroyed. Cattle were also examined when they arrived in Kumasi.

Regulations of Buildings and Town Planning.

48. All building permits with plans were submitted to the Medical Officer of Health for his approval and the buildings during construction were supervised by the European Building Inspector.

Thirty-seven permits to brickmakers were issued during the year.

49. **Municipal Rent and Fees.**

	1st April 1922 to 31st March, 1923.	1st April 1923 to 31st March, 1924.	Decrease for 1923-24.	Increase for 1923-24.
Rents from Town Plot	£6,199	£5,649	£549	—
Rents from Zongo	1,310	1,260	49	—
Rents from Market	263	247	16	—
Rents from Slaughter House	575	487	88	—

The decreases were due to non-payment of rents on new allotted plots, which lessees failed to build upon and the leases of which were cancelled.

50. The sanitation of Obuasi is controlled by a Sanitary Committee composed of Government and Mine Representatives. The Committee have the services of a European Village Overseer. The revenue of the Committee was £4,751, and the expenditure was £4,548. These figures compare with £5,264 and £4,668 respectively for the previous year.

The Wawassie Drainage Scheme which was commenced in June, 1922, was completed on 30th June, 1923, and the Wawassie extension commenced on 10th December, 1923, was completed on 22nd March, 1924, both amounting to 2,871 feet of concrete drains ; an excellent piece of work.

51. The sanitation of Bekwai, which is developing rapidly as a trade centre, and of Juaso were reported as satisfactory.

Meteorological.

The rainfall recorded at Kumasi during the year was as follows :—

April	1923	9.125
May	,,	4.175
June	,,	7.750
July	,,	9.410
August	,,	.335
September	,,	5.790
October	,,	6.265
November	,,	3.315
December	,,	1.315
January	1924	.020
February	,,	5.265
March	,,	6.475
	Total	59.240

The outstanding feature for the year was the exceptionally dry August, the rainfall being only .335. This rainfall compares with 65.25 inches during 1922-23 and 66.94 during 1921-22. It may be pointed out that the rainfall, though lower than in either of the two preceding years, exceeded the rainfalls of 1919 and 1920, which were 37 inches and 55.90 inches respectively.

The rainfall at other stations in Ashanti was :—

	1923-24.	1922-23.
Mprim	70.690 inc.	—
Sunyani	62.04 ,,	69.83
Kintampo	71.54 ,,	75.11

EDUCATION.

53. Education, as in former years, has been conducted by the Government and the Missionary Societies. Government Primary Schools are established in Kumasi—boys and girls—at Juaso and Sunyani, whilst there were 28, as compared with 25 in the previous year, Mission Primary Assisted Schools established in towns and villages throughout Ashanti, but principally in the Eastern Province. In addition there is a Government Junior Trade School at Mampong and also an Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre at Kumasi, to which reference is made under the Head of Agriculture.

There were also 163 Non-Assisted Missionary Primary Schools in numerous towns and villages, as compared with approximately 110 in the previous year.

The Wesleyan Mission during the year opened a Training College for the lay Agency and Ministry. This College was opened on 3rd March by the Governor in the presence of a large gathering of Europeans and Africans.

54. The number of children on the rolls of the Government Primary Schools at the end of the year was 648 boys and 188 girls, total 836, with an average attendance throughout the year of 760. The numbers for 1922-23 were 814 enrolled and 730 average attendance, and in 1921-22, 532 boys and girls were enrolled. All the Government Schools show satisfactory increases and it is owing to lack of accommodation and qualified teachers that the numbers of scholars were not considerably more.

55. The statistics of the Assisted Mission Schools were as follows, viz. :—

Schools.	Enrolment		Total	Average attendance
	Boys.	Girls.		
Scottish Mission ...	999	168	1,167	1,022
Wesleyan Mission ...	910	98	1,008	828
Roman Catholic Mission ...	744	20	764	666
Church of England Mission ...	281	—	281	246
A.M.E. Zion Mission... ...	85	—	85	60
	3,019	286	3,305	2,822

Here again these figures show a remarkable increase as compared with the figures for the previous year, which were, total enrolment 2,914 and average attendance 2,479. Again, there were no fewer than 3,781 children enrolled as pupils in Non-Assisted Schools. The writer regrets to be unable to compare these figures with the numbers for the previous year as these numbers were not attainable, but as no fewer than 53 additional Schools were opened during the year, there must have been a large increase in pupils over the previous year.

56. These figures prove conclusively that there is no lack of appreciation of the benefits of education in Ashanti. Chiefs readily offer to erect temporary school buildings and to contribute towards

the cost of the teacher's salary. It is worthy of note that the young Omanhene of Wenchi has obtained permission from the Queen Mother and the Councillors of the Stool to attend the Scottish Mission School at Mampong.

The education provided at these schools is of course elementary and those who aspire to a higher standard of education have to go either to Accra or Cape Coast. The Kumasi Council of Chiefs requested the Government to establish a Secondary School in Kumasi.

57. During the year the Provincial Inspector of Schools inspected 32 Mission Schools and 28 of these qualified for grants-in-aid. Three schools under the management of the Scottish Mission were added to the Assisted list.

58. *Female Education.*—The Government Girls' School was enlarged and the additional room provided accommodation for three Infant Classes. A further enlargement is necessary as four Standard Classes have still to be taught in one small room.

The Domestic Training Subjects at the Kumasi Government Girls' School received considerable attention and the premises used for cookery and laundry purposes were satisfactorily equipped. Plain sewing, domestic hygiene and child welfare were also taught. The girls should be able to benefit largely from the teaching of these subjects when they have such domestic conveniences to consider for themselves.

At 19 Assisted Mission Schools both boys and girls are admitted. The majority of the girls attending the schools were found chiefly in the Infants and Standards I.—III. The Government Girls' School at Kumasi is the only school exclusively for girls in Ashanti, and it is unable to meet the demand for female education. The enrolment at this school cannot be increased for lack of accommodation. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the establishment of boarding schools for girls might receive the early attention of the Missions. The proportion of boys to girls at the schools was approximately eight to one. This shows a large increase over that of the previous year.

59. The sum collected as School Fees was £1,059 9s. 0d., which was £136 15s. 1d. more than was collected during the previous year. This is a further indication of the desire for education on the part of the children and of the willingness of the parents to pay for the education of their children.

60. A site for a new Government Boys' School at Kumasi has been selected, but it has not yet been found possible to commence the school building.

61. It may be added that all the school children took considerable interest in the preparation of exhibits for the Gold Coast Section of the British Empire Exhibition and the Ashanti Schools were worthily represented.

62. As already stated the new Wesley College at Kumasi was opened by the Governor. In the course of His Excellency's speech the future of secondary education in the Colony, and the need for

such institutions for training qualified teachers, were touched upon. The building was erected at a cost of £25,000. It is substantial and is fire-proof throughout. The grounds of the College cover 104 acres. The opening of this College is another step in the march of progress and reflects the greatest credit upon the energy and foresight of the Mission Authorities.

Junior Trade School, Mampong.

63. The Junior Trade School, Mampong, has been gradually but firmly establishing itself in the course of the period under review. A second class of twenty pupils was admitted, making a total of forty pupils in residence. This number will be augmented by the classes of equal strength in each of the succeeding years. Two dormitories were constructed of burnt bricks. These are highly satisfactory and will be permanent buildings under the approved layout scheme.

The result of this Junior Trade School will be that the Ashanti will gradually displace the artisans, including motor drivers, who come from the coast towns and elsewhere and will assert his claim to a fair share in the sphere of technical employment in his own country.

Boy Scouts.

64. *Strength.*—The total number of Scouts in Ashanti at the end of the year was as follows, viz. :—

Kumasi Local Association.

	S.M.'s	Asst. S.M.'s	Tenft.	Training.
Kumasi ...	6	5	100	94
Ashanti Akim ...	—	5	28	102
Total	6	10	128	196

The Chief Scout's Commissioner inspected the troops in February and reported that an improvement was shown in several directions since his last visit.

A Training Camp was held at Kumawu in January last and was a great success.

A small room in the Fort has been set aside as a Headquarters Office.

Though the numbers were smaller than the previous year the spirit was much healthier and showed a beginning of real progress.

RELIGION.

65. The number of Missionary bodies remained the same as hitherto throughout the year, viz. :—

(*a*) *The Church of England—the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.*—The Benedictine Monks from Preshore Abbey. Worcester, who established, in March, 1923, a Branch House of the Community in Kumasi and took over the mission, continued to do good work.

(*b*) *The Ashanti Scottish Mission.*—The field is divided into four districts. Kumasi, the headquarters, remained without a resident European during the year and the work was supervised by the Senior African Minister in charge. The Minister in charge reported as follows:—

> "We have succeeded in making our members to understand that Christianity does not loose them from their obligations to their Chiefs and relatives and that a good Christian is loyal to his King and country. As a result there are more Chiefs taking an interest in the work, helping us in building Churches, School Houses and supplying School children.

(*c*) *The Ashanti Wesleyan Mission.*—This Mission has three European Missionaries with their wives, also a large number of ordained Native Ministers, Village Catechists and Teachers.

(*d*) *The Roman Catholic Mission.*—The Staff comprised three European Priests and 86 African School Teachers.

(*e*) *The A.M.E. Zion Mission* has seven churches.

(*f*) *The Seventh Day Adventists.*—The Christian constituents of this Mission are divided into two classes—Church members and Sabbath school scholars. The first are fully established members, while the latter class are probationers.

66. The writer desires to record the excellent work which is being performed by the various Missionary bodies in Ashanti. The relations between the Christians and the non-Christian African generally have been very friendly. Only in one or two instances have there been disputes between the fetish people and the Christians and the disputes were easily settled. There is and always has been a tendency for the Christian, especially the newly converted, to ignore his allegiance to his Chief, but during the present year this particular phase caused no trouble. How far Christianity has penetrated the life of the people it is difficult to discover, but there is no doubt that its influence is for good law and order.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

67. The Provincial Commissioners report that the relationship between the Chiefs and the Government was all that could have been desired. The Chiefs have placed more and more confidence in the Government. The relations between the Head Chiefs and their leading subjects were not so good, particularly is this the case in the divisions which were reorganised after the last Ashanti rising. A number of such sub-chiefs claim that they are independent, but it is hoped when the new Native Jurisdiction Ordinance becomes law that these claims for indenpendence will be gradually abandoned. Other causes for discontent have been land disputes and settlement of tribal boundaries. As the country is being opened up and developed land becomes more valuable and the tendency is that disputes as to land boundaries increase in number. There is a gradual and almost imperceptible change coming over Native Affairs in Ashanti. The Ashanti Chiefs have tried cases from time immemorial and with the power of life and death they demanded

and obtained from their people blind obedience. This blind obedience is no longer the order of the day. The "Youngmen" are no longer ignorant ; they do not fear torture or death at the hands of a more or less barbaric tyrant. That former fear has been displaced by a feeling of independence and safety which gives vent to criticism of their elders, and a desire when dissatisfied, to take the law into their own hands. At the root of most of these troubles lies "money" —either the Chief retains what he should not or attempts to levy what the "Youngmen" think an unfair tax. It is no new phenomenon. It is but the old cry of "No Taxation without Representation." If the Chief wants money then the people who are asked to contribute want to know for what purpose it is needed and how much is required. When they have paid they wish to be told that it has been used for the purpose for which it was ostensibly collected. Failure to satisfy them on these points have been the cause of minor disturbances.

This attitude is due to the spread of education in its broad sense. Education arises not only from the increased number of Schools and Churches but from the increased facilities of transport, and consequent freedom of movement which allows the intermixture of people and the exchanging of views.

Little by little the spread of real education must assuredly impregnate the whole of the race and it is but a matter of time when the ordinary Ashanti will overcome his prejudice against the election of a literate to the Stool, and then ruler and ruled will both have the same smattering of Scholarship, and a good deal of the suspicion that now lies between them will fade away and a happier relation will result.

Stool troubles will only disappear entirely with the Stools themselves. At this time in the evolution of the Ashanti people such a disappearance is neither to be wished nor hoped for. There can be no doubt of the material progress of the people. They have gained much wealth in recent years, principally by the sale of cocoa, and they have not hesitated to spend their wealth for the benefit of themselves, their Stools and their country.

They have erected large and imposing houses, purchased motor cars, added to the regalia of their Stools, constructed motor roads and built new sanitary and up-to-date villages adjacent to these roads.

68. Some of the Stools were not free from trouble during the year under review but, with the exception of the riot at Kokofu already referred to, there was nothing of particular interest.

69. There is no record of the number of cases tried in the Native Tribunals, but the following statistics show the number of

Appeals in each District from these tribunals to the Commissioners and how these appeals were disposed of:—

	Heard.	Upheld.	Reversed.
Kumasi	36 ...	30 ...	6
Obuasi	12 ...	12 ...	—
Juaso	2 ...	2 ...	—
Ejura	18 ...	7 ...	11
Sunyani	8 ...	5 ...	3
Goaso	8 ...	8 ...	—
Kintampo	5 ...	4 ...	1
Wenchi	8 ...	8 ...	—
	97	76	21

It is satisfactory to record that such a large proportional number of the decisions have been upheld. This serves to indicate that administration of Justice in these Native Tribunals is creditable to the Chiefs concerned.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

70. Captain Rattray, M.B.E., was in charge of this Department throughout the year, but no report was submitted to the writer upon the work accomplished by him.

PUBLIC WORKS.

71. The general working of the Department proceeded satisfactorily during the year. Labour was fairly plentiful and contractors carried out their work expeditiously. Building material was forthcoming, if not always from the Public Works Department Store, from local firms in Ashanti and the Gold Coast Colony.

72. £9,013 were expended on Public Works Annually Recurrent (excluding roads), and the Provincial Engineer reported that the whole of the painting programme was carried out and considerable repairs were executed on nearly every bungalow in Kumasi. The lighting of streets and public buildings was efficiently carried out and the plant and machinery were all maintained.

73. Under the Public Works Extraordinary Votes (excluding roads) £32,130 was expended during the year. The principal works being the erection of Water Tanks at bungalows in Kumasi, the new Residency and new offices for the Chief Commissioner.

74. Further, a considerable amount of structional work was done for other Departments, particularly the Post Office and the Gold Coast Section of the British Empire Exhibition.

75. *Kumasi Public Health Board.*—The proposal to establish a Public Health Board received the approval of the Secretary of State on the 3rd July, 1923.

The Board will have control of local sanitary matters in Kumasi and will be to all intents and purposes a modified Town Council. In anticipation of the Secretary of State's approval a sum of £12,000 was entered in the Estimates. The services of a Town Engineer not being available, the Provincial Engineer supervised and controlled the expenditure. Unfortunately the Assistant Town Engi-

neer and the Foreman of Works did not arrive in Kumasi until December and January respectively. However, £4,128 was expended on the Surface Water Drainage, Layout of the Town and Offices. The Old Railway Station Shelter and Booking Office were taken over and the necessary alterations made to convert these into temporary offices. Before the end of the year work on five bungalows for the staff had been started.

Water Supply Investigations.

76. The weir of the Ofin River at Mprim, the Western Subin and Denyami, together with rain gauges, were kept in order and the readings taken regularly.

Rest Houses.

77. The Rest Houses throughout Ashanti were well maintained by the Political Officers. They are as a rule good and comfortable buildings, but with the advent of the motor a number have been allowed to fall into disrepair as their maintenance was unjustifiable.

ROADS.

78. The mileage of the motor and motorable roads (exclusive of Town Roads) in Ashanti at the end of the year was 721½, of which the Public Works Department maintained 195 and the Political Officers 526½. These roads were not only maintained in good order and condition, but construction of additional mileage by the Political Officers made excellent progress.

During 1921-22 twenty-five miles additional of motorable roads were open for traffic, chiefly in the Kumasi District. During 1922-23, 57 miles of new motorable roads were under construction but were not entirely opened to traffic at the end of the year, and during the year under review 164½ miles were constructed and opened for traffic. Of this large mileage opened during the year 94½ miles were constructed in the Eastern Province and 70 in the Western Province. The writer motored over these newly constructed roads in the Western Province in a heavy Studebaker car during the month of May last and found them, for new roads, extraordinarily good. The following table shows how the mileage of motor and motorable roads in Ashanti has increased during the last three years, viz. :—

1921-22	...	...	500
1922-23	...	...	557
1923-24	...	...	721½

79. £20,321 was expended upon Road Maintenance during the year, whilst £14,636 was expended upon Road Construction. The following roads (exclusive of Town Roads) were maintained by the Public Works Department :—

A.1.	Kumasi to Prang Road ...	...	121	miles.
A.2.	Kumasi to Bompata Road	...	47	,,
A.3.	Ejura towards Nkoranza	...	17	,,
A.23.	Ntonsu to Effiduasie ...	...	10	,,
			195	miles.

The Great North Road (A.1) from Kumasi to Ejura is still the finest road in the Gold Coast and certainly must be one of the finest roads in West Africa. The road was maintained at its usual high standard but the heavy lorries, which have practically replaced the light Fords, entailed considerable repairs to the timber decking of the bridges.

Corrugations unfortunately appeared on certain stretches during the height of the Cocoa Season. Several portions of the road were widened and the scarps at Mampong and Ejura were kept continually rolled and had good surfaces. The portion, Ejura to Prang (River Pru) was considerably improved. The permanent bridge, a very substantial structure, across the Pru at Prang, was completed and the reconstruction of the bridge across the Affram was started during the year.

Road A.2. Kumasi-Bompata Road—47 Miles.

This road has been well maintained but the timber structures were a continual source of trouble. Heavy rains swept away four large bridges entirely, but these were replaced and the road kept open with temporary bridges.

Road A.3. Ejura towards Nkoranza.

(A Political road but maintained by the Public Works Department), 17 miles.

The road was kept passable and the bridges in fair repair. It was, as in former years, difficult to obtain labour to work on the road owing to the scarcity of villages and the consequent lack of foodstuffs.

Road A23. Ntonsu to Effiduasi—10 Miles.

This road was well maintained.

80. TOWN ROADS.—The Town Roads of Kumasi, which have been tarmetted, have been well maintained notwithstanding the increasing heavy motor traffic, considerable stretches were regravelled and the main roads leading out of the town were repaired to the Town Boundaries.

Roads constructed and maintained by Political Officers.

81. The Public Works Department costructed seven bridges and seventy-one culverts on these roads. It should be realised that almost all the work in connection with the construction of the roads (except the concrete bridges and culverts) was done by the Chiefs and people under the direction of Political Officers. The Chiefs feel that without such roads they are not marching with the extraordinary advance of progress which Ashanti has made in recent years. They have also a financial interest in constructing motor roads, because as soon as motor cars penetrate to the outlying towns and villages an immediate reduction in the cost of transport is assured and therefore a higher price is paid for their produce.

The Commissioner of the Western Province writes:—"The trouble in this Province is not to get the people to construct motor roads, but to hold them back from construction on their own; on lines which are badly graded and require too much earth work and bridging." It is essential that a proper survey of the roads should be made, before construction work begins, otherwise without a survey all the labour expended might be found to have been of no avail. The enthusiasm the Chiefs and people display for developing their own country reflects the greatest credit upon them.

82. The cost of maintenance not only of the roads already constructed but those which must be constructed within the next five years in order to develop the country is and will be a very serious drain on the resources of the finances of the Colony. The Provincial Engineer writes:—

> "I would draw attention to the increasing heavy motor traffic on all roads. The number of the vehicles is increasing, but what is more marked is the weight of the lorries as compared with two years ago. Then the majority of the cars using the roads were "Fords," now the percentage of "Fords" is not more than 5 per cent., the remainder being composed of Reos, Stewarts and similar cars. The wear and tear is decidedly greater and the amounts granted for maintenance have not increased."

One of the most lucrative trades to-day in Ashanti is that of motor hiring. An increasing number of vehicles is being put on the roads and competition is very keen, principally amongst the Syrian community with American built lorries.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

83. The Government fleet of vehicles at Kumasi on the 1st April, 1923, was, one Buick touring car and five lorries, the latter consisting of two fifteen cwt. Cubitts and three seven cwt. Fords. This number being the same number as was maintained during the previous year. The Department, which is run on commercial lines as far as possible shows a net loss of £115.

The following table shows the tonnage and number of loads carried during the year:—

Officers' loads	...	10,319
Government loads	...	6,373
Total loads conveyed	...	16,692
Weight of Officers' loads	...	265 tons.
Weight of Government loads	...	301 ,,
Total weight conveyed	...	566 tons.

The total mileage covered by the Fleet during the year was 54,638.

It is impossible to compare accurately these statistics with the statistics for the previous years, but the following figures for 1922-23 give a slight indication.

Passengers	...	1,220
Loads	...	26,536

The tonnage of the loads and the mileage are not available. Vehicles had to be hired from contractors during the year, as in previous years, and £12,181 was paid for this service. In addition to maintaining and running its own fleet, the Department was responsible for the maintenance of the Post Office mail van and the lorries used by the Public Works Department in connection with the construction and maintenance of roads.

RAILWAYS.

84. The Railway between Accra and Kumasi was completed and handed over to Open Lines on the 3rd September, and so no accurate comparison with Railway traffic during the year under review with previous years can be given. However, the inward traffic to all Stations in Ashanti was 33,771 tons as against 37,921 tons for the previous year. These goods for the year under review consisted principally of building materials, machinery, cotton goods, and tinned provisions, whereas for the previous year considerable quantities of railway constructional material were conveyed.

The outward goods traffic from all Stations in Ashanti was 68,244 tons as compared with 54,407 tons in the previous year. This traffic principally consisted of cocoa 61,176 tons and kola 2,983 tons. The export of cocoa alone from Ashanti exceeded the total exports for 1922-23 by 6,769 tons, a truly marvellous increase. The Railway receipts were as follows, viz. :—

For goods exported from Ashanti	...	£256,029
For goods imported into Ashanti	...	129,444
For Coaching traffic ...	...	52,076
		£437,549

No comparison can be made with the figures for the previous years for the reason already stated.

The Railway service during the year was maintained satisfactorily.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

85. No separate statistics for Ashanti are available.

Postal.

With the opening of the Accra-Kumasi Railway in September a Travelling Post Office, serving all Post Offices and agencies *en route*, was instituted on the daily passenger trains in both directions. This resulted in a large increase of postal matter being dealt with at Kumasi as the latter, on account of the two railway lines, became the daily postal clearing office between the Eastern and Western Provinces of the Gold Coast Colony.

Parcels, posted and delivered, were about the same as the previous year, with the exception of parcels received from Nigeria for delivery in Ashanti. In this instance there was a 100 per cent. increase. The majority of these parcels contained Adire cloths from Nigeria..

Telegraphs.

The number of telegrams forwarded and received was practically the same as in the previous year. There was, however, an increase during the three busy cocoa season months of December, January and February.

The towns of Bompata, Prah River, Kwahu Prasu and Bomfa were connected by telegraph during the year.

Telegrams dealt with in Kumasi Office average 9,000 monthly.

Telephones.

A trunk telephone line between Kumasi and intermediate stations to Accra was opened to the public in August. A telephone exchange with local installations throughout the town was opened in Kumasi on the 5th March last with :—

15	official subscribers.
17	private ,,
32	

The number of subscribers steadily increased.

General.

86. All services were satisfactorily maintained during the year. On account of railway and telegraphic extensions considerable speeding up in delivery of mails and telegrams between Ashanti and various parts of the Colony was made. New Post Offices were built at Sunyani and Juaso and a new Type I office was being erected at Bekwai at the close of the year.

Numerous alterations and extensions to the Kumasi Post Office were carried out to cope with the increased services.

A Telegraph Engineer and Telegraph Inspector were permanently stationed in Kumasi to supervise new construction and maintenance of the existing lines. A Telephone Exchange Superintendent was also stationed at Kumasi during the last two months of the year in order to open and supervise the working of the new Telephone Exchange.

A departmental post office transacting all branches of Post Office business, including trunk telephone work was opened at Juaso, and the telegraph postal agency there was closed.

Telegraph postal agencies were opened at: Bompata, Prah River, Kwahu Prahsu and Bomfa.

The Postal Agency at Tekiman was closed on the 3rd November. There were in Ashanti at the end of the year under review

8 Post and Telegraph Offices.
13 Telegraph Postal Agencies.
5 Non Telegraph Postal Agencies.

Total 26

SURVEYS.

87. During the twelve months under review an area of 5,000 square miles was topographically surveyed, and the standard sheets of Obuasi, Bompata, Mampong and Sekodumasi were handed to the Survey Headquarters at Accra for reproduction.

The area covered by these sheets is outlined in red on the attached diagram.

Outline in green is the area topographically surveyed during the previous twelve months, and outlined in blue is the present programme for the next twelve months. Work has already commenced on the Sunyani and Kukuom (previously called Adeambra) sheets.

The Kumasi, Mampong, Bompata and Fumso sheets of the one inch (1 :62,500) Topographical Map, have been published and are now on sale.

The Obuasi standard sheet is being published in the United Kingdom on the scale of 1 :125,000 (approximately two miles to one inch) and should be ready in the near future.

A Topographical Map on a scale of 1 :250,000 was being prepared for publication in the United Kingdom at the end of the year. This sheet will cover an area seventy miles square, and will include Obuasi, Mampong, Potsikrom and Juaso.

The Director, Topographical Branch, writes :—

> "As the survey progresses northwards the open nature of the country will allow of more rapid work and reduced cost. In the "orchard" country the slow and costly partial cutting, necessary in the forest belt, can be dispensed with. Nowhere in Ashanti, however, does visibility allow of plane—table survey—the most rapid of topographical methods—being carried out. Apart from more rapid work and reduced cost, the open country is a far better training ground for the African surveyors, whose progress and future ability to undertake independent work is the main factor in the economic survey of the Gold Coast."
>
> "The interest taken by the Political Officers, and the friendly attitude on the part of the inhabitants of Ashanti, have greatly facilitated the work of the surveyors."

88. The Provincial Surveyor also accomplished a good year's work. No fewer than twenty surveys of townships, boundary disputes and roads were made, whilst satisfatcory progress was also made on the 1 :1250 survey of Kumasi township.

GENERAL.

89. The year under review has been one of steady progress, which has been built on a solid foundation of almost 25 years work by able administrators such as Sir Francis Fuller, K.B.E., C.M.G., and his conscientious and able lieutenants. The results of such good work have been shown by the greater trust and confidence which the Ashanti has placed in the Government. The Political Officers were consequently able to carry out good work such as the settlement of tribal boundaries, construction of many miles of motor roads, and laying out of villages. The day is not far distant when every important town and village in Ashanti will be linked up with Kumasi with good motor roads.

90. Investigations were made during the year at Chebbi, near Nsuta as to its suitability for a site for a Sanitorium for the Gold Coast in accordance with the Secretary of State's suggestion. The situation is ideal and water supply appears to be good and plentiful. It is 1,200 feet above sea level and is within two hours by motor from Kumasi, the road being good except for the last three miles.

91. During the latter part of the year Sir S. D'Aguilar Crookshank, K.C.M.G., visited Ashanti to report on the Public Works Department. He had issued a valuable report which should be of great assistance and guidance not only to the officers of that Department but to all the Officers in Ashanti.

92. Mr. C. H. Harper, C.M.G., O.B.E., Chief Commissioner, retired on 22nd July, and the writer was promoted as from that date. The writer paid a flying visit to Kumasi in December, but special duties in Accra prevented him assuming office during the year under review.

Mr. L. H. Wheatley, Provincial Commissioner, retired on pension on the 3rd January, 1924, and Lieut.Col. C. E. D. O. Rew, O.B.E., Deputy Chief Commissioner retired, on the 15th March, 1924.

93. Colonel Rew acted as Chief Commissioner from 27th April, 1923, to 2nd November, 1923, and Captain J. A. Ballantine from 23rd November, 1923, to the end of the year.

There were also numerous changes among the Political Staff in the two Provinces and the Districts.

JOHN MAXWELL,

Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

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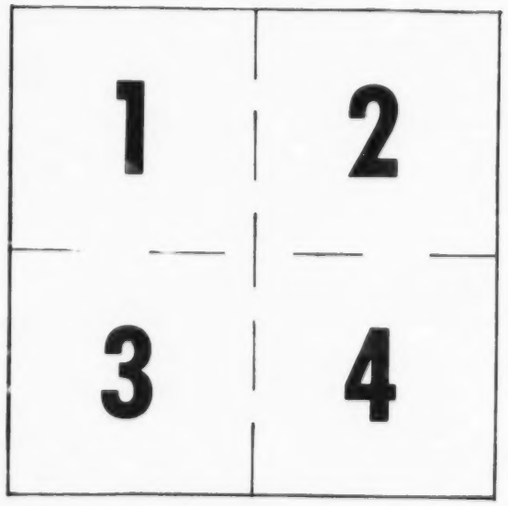
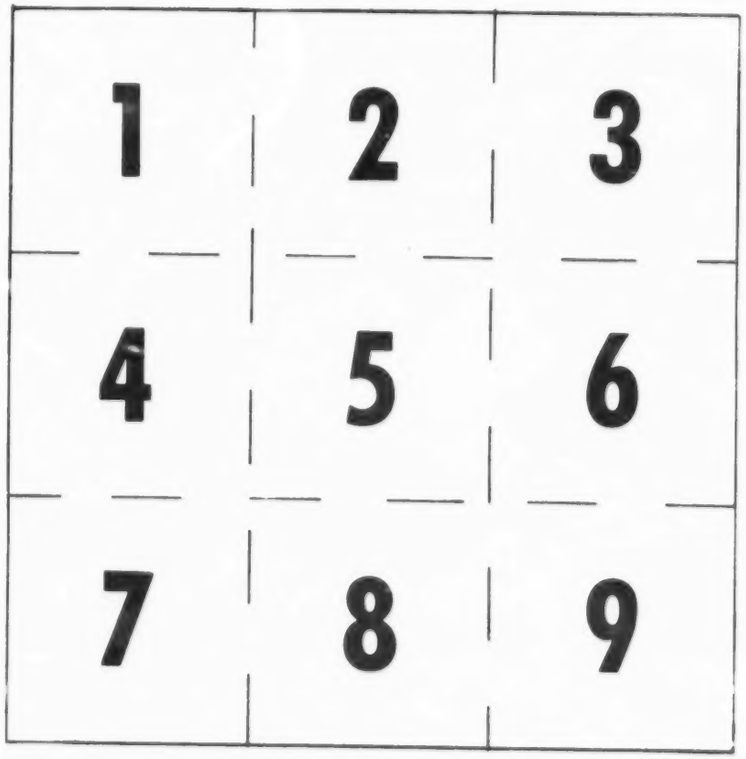
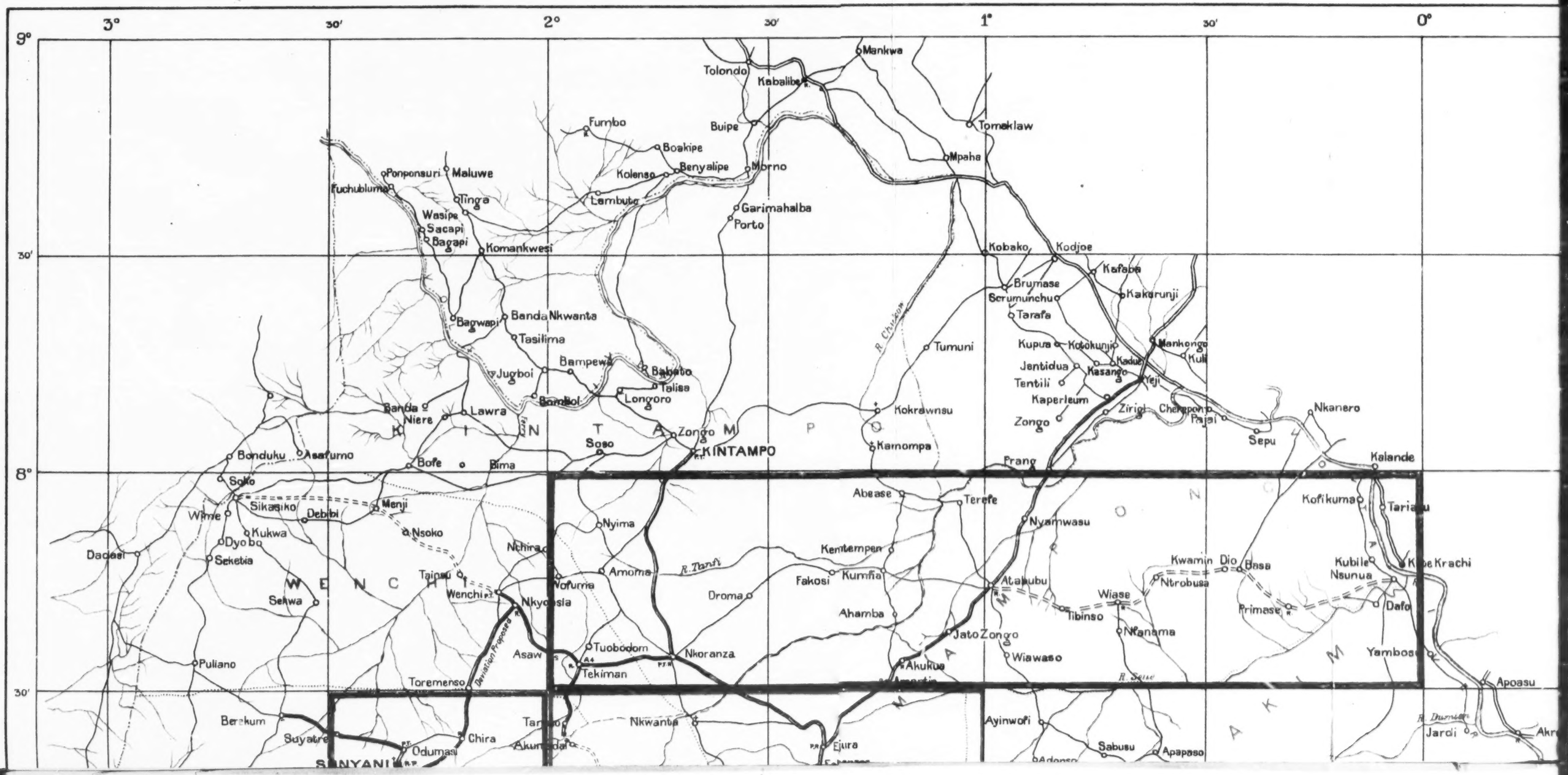
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.







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Porto
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Bagapi
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Kakarunji
Scrumunchu
Tarafa
Bagwapi
Banda Nkwanta
Tasilima
Tumuni
Kupua
Kokokunji
Mankongo
Jentidua
Kasango
Yeji
Tentili
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ASHANTI
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVE

AREA COMPLETED 1922-23

AREA COMPLETED 1923-24

PROGRAMME 1924-25

ROAD INDEX

MOTOR ROADS (OPEN)

" . (UNDER CONSTN)

" " (PROPOSED)

" LINK ROADS "

PIONEER MOTOR " (OPEN)

" " " (UNDERCONSTN)

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SCALE 1:100,000 OR 1:1·014 INCHES = 1·6 MILES.

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ASHANTI
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

AREA COMPLETED 1922-23

AREA COMPLETED 1923-24

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" LINK ROADS "

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COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year*
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1228	Hongkong	,,
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	,,
1235	Straits Settlements	,,
1236	Seychelles	,,
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923–1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1240	St. Lucia	,,
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	,,
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	,,
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923–1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	,,
1250	State of Brunei	,,
1251	St. Helena	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
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ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1924-25.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON ASHANTI, 1924-25.

FINANCIAL.

Ashanti is constitutionally separate and distinct from the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories Protectorate, but so far as Finance is concerned, all three are treated as a single unit. It is therefore impossible to estimate the Revenue and Expenditure, except those items which are purely local.

REVENUE.

2. The local receipts amounted to £60,018, which compared with £56,347 in 1923–1924 and £63,866 in 1922–1923, show an increase of £3,671 over 1923–1924 and a decrease of £3,847 under 1922–1923.

The most important items were :—

	1923–24.	1924–25.
Motor Licences	£2,646 ..	£3,554
Spirit Licences	6,905 ..	6,437
Firearms, etc.	367 ..	623
Court Fines and Fees ..	7,221 ..	8,828
Rents of Government Lands	6,910 ..	7,599
Mining Royalties	16,235 ..	17,090

Of the above items Spirit Licences is the only item which shewed a decrease. The reason for this was that many unsatisfactory stores in Kumasi were not relicensed.

3. It is regretted that no separate statistics in respect of Import and Export for goods imported into, and produce exported from, Ashanti are available and the only method of arriving at an approximate estimate would be from detailed figures supplied by the Railway showing the various classes of Merchandise imported into, and of produce exported from, Ashanti.

The quantity of produce exported from Ashanti by Road is negligible, except Kola which is estimated to be approximately 50% of the produce and which goes overland to the North.

4. The Railway receipts were as follows, viz :--

	1923-24.		1924-25
Coaching	£52,076	..	£57,916
Goods from Stations in Ashanti			
Cocoa	239,826	..	217,828
Kola	8,566	..	8,539
General Merchandise ..	7,637	..	10,913
Goods to Stations in Ashanti	129,444	..	110,477
	£437,549	..	£405,673

EXPENDITURE.

5. The local expenditure of all departments, except Railway expenditure for which no separate figures are kept for Ashanti, was £379,288 as compared with £233,176 for the previous year thus shewing the large increase of £146,112.

The principal items of expenditure were :—

	1923-24.		1924-25.
Political Administration ..	£32,110	..	£33,259
Medical and Sanitary Services	29,394	..	43,155
Gold Coast Regiment	36,591	..	46,274
Public Works Department ..	15,181	..	14,855
Public Works Department Annually Recurrent ..	25,389	..	34,780
Public Works Department including Special Expenditure	44,042	..	149,107

All the items (except one) show large increases especially the Public Works Extraordinary. These figures testify to the greatly increased activities of all Departments during the year under review as compared with previous years. The work carried out in respect of the Public Works Extraordinary is set out at length under Head " Public Works " of this Report.

TRADE.

6. The Oversea trade of Ashanti consists of practically the same goods as that of the Gold Coast Colony and is fully reported on by the Comptroller of Customs in his Annual Trade Report of the Gold Coast. The value of the goods imported overseas into

Ashanti and the value of the produce exported from Ashanti are not declared in Ashanti or at the Ports and therefore are not treated separately. There is no obligation on Importers and Exporters to declare the value and numbers of goods imported into and exported from Ashanti. The only figures available to indicate the course of trade are the tonnage figures supplied by the Railway which are fully set out under the Head of Railway in this Report. A certain amount of local trade is carried on overland, the principal import being cattle and the principal export being Kola. The articles of other imports and exports overland are negligible. There is no Customs Preventive Service in Ashanti and therefore there are no certain well defined routes except the motor roads which lead to the North and West. On certain of these roads, for instance at Kintampo, the police record the number of cattle, sheep and goats and head and donkey transport passing through the station. The figures furnished were for 1924–25 as compared with 1923–24.

	1924–25.	1923–24.
Cattle	6,528	6,423
Sheep and Goats	34,661	28,904
Donkey Transport	32,039	..not available
all going South, and those going North were		
Donkey Transport	41,216	27,247
Head Loads	48,993	25,302
Motor Vehicles	591	354

These figures serve to indicate an increasing volume of trade, but the writer cannot guarantee their accuracy.

The Timber trade of Ashanti has not hitherto been referred to in this Report, but it is worthy of note that the greater proportion of timber which is railed from Dunkwa comes from the Ashanti Forests and is floated down the Ofin River. This trade is also making rapid strides on the Accra Kumasi Railway.

One noticeable feature has been that with the opening up of the country by motor roads the large European firms are opening Stores in towns and villages which a few years ago were not considered ever likely to become the important trade centres that they are today.

The farmer obtained better prices for cocoa during the year and there is no doubt that the volume of trade would have shown a very large increase if plague had not broken out in Kumasi.

AGRICULTURE.

7. Cocoa as in past years is the principal product of Ashanti and the wealth which is derived therefrom is the foundation of the peace and prosperity of the country.

The Government is however not confining its attention to the cultivation of cocoa only. There are in Ashanti three Agricultural Stations, viz., Kumasi, Juaso, the Headquarters of the Ashanti Akim District, and Ejura the present Headquarters of the Mampong District. Various experiments were conducted at all these stations with indigenous and introduced crops.

In addition to these Agricultural Stations, Senior Officers were engaged on itinerant work during the year. The main efforts of the Department were concentrated on the productive areas of the Eastern Province and periodical visits were made to all localities. The good feeling established between the Officers and the farmers was maintained. The increasing tendency of farmers to appeal to the officers for advice and assistance is worthy of note, and reports showed that there was a more intelligent interest taken in the advice and instructions offered. The condition of the farms showed a gradual improvement which reflects credit both upon the Department and the farmers alike.

Cocoa.

8. The crop throughout was good and the yields were about equal to that of the previous year. The quality was slightly better as a whole indicative of a steady improvement. Prices were very much better throughout the year, and contrary to past experience were highest in December, after which they depreciated slightly towards the close of the season. For a load of 60 lbs. of cocoa the price opened in Kumasi at 9s. increased rapidly to 19s. and then gradually fell to 15s. 6d. at the end of the year. As a result of the twelve months working, the tonnage carried on the Railway serves to give a good idea of the actual contribution which Ashanti makes towards the actual exports from the Gold Coast Colony.

9. The Rates charged for transport of cocoa by Motor lorries varied from 10d. to 1s. 6d. per ton mile as compared with 1s. 3d. to 1s. 11d. per ton mile for the previous year the lesser rate being charged on main roads where heavy lorries are used. There has been a good deal of fluctuation in rates, but a general reduction took place as the main season crop was harvesting. This was attributable to the increasing competition, as more lorries were put into commission. Syrian owner drivers with American lorries were the greatest competitors and have so reduced rates that it is doubtful if any transport company can profitably compete with them. The reduced rates however favoured the growers since it resulted in higher prices for their Cocoa.

During the year there were extension of cocoa areas in the Mampong and Obuasi Districts and in the Western Province.

Diseases and Pests.

10. There were no serious outbreaks of new pests. Those well known are all too firmly established. It is a matter for congratulation that their increase has not been so great as to cause a serious reduction of the total crops.

European Plantations—Abomposu Estates.

11. This plantation devoted principally to Cocoa was well maintained throughout the year. The total crop however was below the previous year, which was most unfortunate in view of the better prices which were obtained.

Ofin River Rubber Plantation.

12. Work on this Plantation which had been suspended for some time on account of market depression was recommenced late in the year. Most of the areas were brought under clean cultivation and tapping operations were started.

Oil Palms.

13. The efforts referred to in last year's report to encourage the establishment of local plots of this crop were maintained and good progress was made. Political Officers assisted by members of the Agricultural Department have succeeded in establishing several plots during the year and preparations were in hand at the end of the year for increasing the numbers. No fewer than 38,270 seedlings were planted in the Western Province.

Coffee.

14. Increasing interest was shown in this crop and several demonstration plots were established under the Amanhin and with one exception these plots have been successful. Individual Europeans and Africans have made plots for themselves and it may be of interest to record that a plantation has been started in the Residency grounds.

Kola.

15. This product was dealt with at length in the report for 1923–24. The crop was a heavy one and as a result the price of nuts was low as compared with the previous year. The Western Province has hitherto been the largest producer of Kola but the Commissioner, Western Province, Ashanti, writes "Cocoa is now the principal product and has ousted Kola."

Here again the Syrian traders made strenuous efforts to capture the trade and it is with regret to record that for the first time the industry is not entirely in the hands of the Africans.

Food Crops.

16. The supply of these were well maintained and areas round Kumasi were increased. Prices in Kumasi were high and kept fairly steady. Corn Smut made its appearance on the first crops and was much more in evidence on the latter crops. It would appear to be widely distributed all over Ashanti. Every endeavour was made to acquaint the people of the danger of the pest and Posters and Leaflets illustrating same were issued by the Agricultural Department. Unfortunately some of the crops had to be completely destroyed.

The Dukusie Cattle Farm continued to be successfully operated and the number of live-stock increased during the year.

The Omanhene of Bompata in whose division the farm is situated continued to take much interest therein.

FORESTRY.

17. During the year the following work has been carried out in the Forest Reserves.

Formangsu Reserve (North and South).

18. This Reserve was split into two parts, North and South, and a Forest Guard was posted on the South Reserve in September.

A Survey of the Reserve was started in November at a beacon near the junction of the Formang and Prah Rivers. The field work at the junction of the Sutrie and Formang Rivers in the North East corner was finished in March.

At a meeting held in January all the Chiefs owning the land (except one) agreed to pass Bye-Laws on the completion of the survey.

Ofin Headwaters Reserve (Mampong).

19. The Omanhene has agreed to pass Bye-Laws for this Reserve. The demarcation was started in January and completed in February. The Special Survey Party started work in March.

Nsuta Reserve.

20. The Omanhene of Nsuta has agreed to pass Bye-Laws for this Reserve.

The demarcation of this Reserve was started in February.

Prah Anum Government Reserve.

21. Two Forest Guards were posted to this Reserve in August, 1924, and Rules under the Ashanti Administration Ordinance for the administration of this and other Government Reserves were under consideration at the end of the year.

Mankrang Ofin Reserve.

22. The Head Chiefs concerned have signed an Agreement handing the Reserve over to the Government until such time as they have powers under the Ashanti Native Jurisdiction Ordinance, when they themselves will administer the Reserve. It is proposed that the Special Survey Party will survey this Reserve. At present all the external boundaries have been demarcated.

Kumasi Fuel Reserve.

23. The land about 100 acres has been acquired and surveyed, the boundaries cut and cement pillars erected. A small nursery of Cedar, Mahogany, Odum and Ochrocarpus has been started.

The Provincial Forest Officer writes :—

> "The Head Chiefs all seem willing, if properly approached, to pass the bye-laws and make reserves but are often apt to agree to Reserve Land belonging to their sub-Chiefs who do not agree and consider that the Omanhene has no right to interfere with their land."

It will therefore be observed that considerable progress has been made in the preservation of the Forests in Ashanti.

AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE.

24. Thirty-two students were in residence during the year, 24 Agricultural and eight Forestry, as compared with 31 for the previous year of whom there were 29 Agricultural and two Forestry. A gratifying feature is the increased number of Forestry students an indication that the preservation of the Forests of the country is engaging the attention of the Africans. Progress generally has been good and the discipline and general appearance of the Learners has reached a very high standard. Cadbury Hall was completed during the year and on 6th December the building was presented to the Government by Mr. E. J. Organ on behalf of Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, Limited, of Bournville, England. It was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of a large number of European and African community.

MINING INDUSTRY.

25. The amount of gold produced during the year from the Mines in Ashanti was 85,893.94 ounces valued at £364,877 as against 74,490.27 valued at £316,419 for the previous year which showed an increase of 11,403.67 ounces and £48,458 in value. The Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, Obuasi, was the only producing Mine. Dredging operations continued to be done in the Ofin River by Mr. O. H. Reynard and produced 362.49 ounces of gold valued at £1,540, as compared with 700 ounces of gold during the previous year.

The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry was as follows :—

	Surface.	Underground.	Total.
Europeans	45	20	65
Africans	1,910	951	2,861

These figures again show a reduction over the figures for the previous year when the numbers were 75 Europeans and 2,908 Africans.

At Konongo a Company is sinking a shaft to explore a gold bearing reef which shows promise.

Three Mining Licences were issued during the year as against none for the previous year whilst six prospecting licences as compared with three for 1923–1924, were issued.

LEGISLATION.

26. Nine Ordinances were enacted during the year.

These were as follows :—

Ordinance No. 3 of 1924.

An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902 by making "The Board of Education for the Gold Coast Colony" the Board of Education for Ashanti.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1924.

An Ordinance to make better provision for the regulation and exercise of certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities, and for purposes connected therewith.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1924.

An Ordinance to amend the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1924.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1924.

An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, by deleting the following Gold Coast Ordinances applied to Ashanti, viz :—

(a) The Survey Ordinance—Chapter 88 (No. 8 of 1896).

(b) The Fugitive Offenders (Togoland) Ordinance—Chapter 184 (No. 14 of 1915).

and inserting

The Survey Ordinance, 1922, and all rules and Regulations made or to be made thereunder.

Ordinance No. 7 of 1924.

An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, viz :—

By including all regulations made or to be made under Sections 18 and 19 in the application to Ashanti of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance, Chapter 61 (No. 2 of 1908 Gold Coast).

Ordinance No. 8 of 1924.

An Ordinance further to amend the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1921.

Ordinance No. 9 of 1924.

An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, viz :—

By making provision for the removal of Gold Coast Colony Prisoners into Ashanti.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1925.

An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902, viz :—

By deleting the following Gold Coast Ordinances applied to Ashanti, viz. :—

(a) The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Ordinance Chapter 23 (No. 19 of 1892).

(b) The Probate Exemption Ordinance Chapter 24 (No. 1 of 1916).

and inserting

(a) The Probate Exemption Ordinance, 1924, and any regulations made or to be made thereunder (No. 33 of 1924).

(b) The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Ordinance, 1924, and any regulations made or to be made thereunder (No. 40 of 1924.)

Ordinance No. 2 of 1925.

An Ordinance further to amend the Ashanti Administration, viz. :—

Re Acquisition of land for Public Service.

Five Rules under various Ordinances were made during the year, the most important being with respect to the recording of proceedings and judgments in a Native Tribunal, and the Wenchi Market Rules.

Various Orders, Proclamations and Regulations were also made by the Governor, Chief Commissioner and Provincial Commissioners, the most important being those in connection with the outbreaks of Plague and Smallpox such as declaring infected areas and the appointment of Compensation Boards.

The most important Ordinance which came into force during the year was the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance. The Commissioner, Western Province, writes :—

> " Although not working very well, it has been a success and there are distinct signs of improvement. When the Chiefs are able to procure reliable clerks or better still have their sons educated so as to be able to take over the duties of Tribunal Clerks there is no doubt that the Ordinance will be a great success. One satisfactory fact is that every Chief who has been given jurisdiction under the Ordinance considers himself honoured and several of those excluded are constantly applying for the privilege. What is more satisfactory is that I have heard of no instance of injustice in any case under this Ordinance."

JUDICIAL.

27. The number of cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti during the year under review was as follows :—

	Civil.	Criminal.
The Chief Commissioner	19	—
The Circuit Judge	35	71
The Police Magistrate, Kumasi	1,152	1,109
Eastern Province.		
Provincial Commissioner	17	—
District Commissioner, Kumasi	214	887
District Commissioner, Obuasi, including the Sub-Station of Bekwai	373	650
District Commissioner, Juaso	126	161
District Commissioner, Ejura	88	254
Western Province.		
Provincial Commissioner	5	3
District Commissioner, Sunyani	43	69
District Commissioner, Goaso	25	54
District Commissioner, Kintampo	24	64
District Commissioner, Wenchi	40	60
	2,161	3,382

These total figures show a reduction of 258 Civil cases and 531 Criminal cases as compared with the Civil and Criminal cases for the previous year.

With regard to the cases in the respective Courts :—

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

28. The number of cases in this Court show a reduction of seven as compared with the number for the previous year.

These cases are principally appeals from Native Tribunals, Land and Boundary disputes and call for no particular comment. The writer ruled that no land cases should be taken until a proper survey of the land in dispute had been made by the Survey Department

This ruling will undoubtedly have far reaching effect and will stop continual litigation concerning the same area of land.

CIRCUIT JUDGE'S COURT.

Criminal Cases.

29. Criminal cases showed an increase as compared with the previous year the number being 71 as against 4e for 1923–24 and 81 as compared with 1922–23.

Eight Death sentences were passed, three of which were commuted.

Civil Cases.

Besides the ordinary applications and Motions 42 civil cases were heard inclusive of seven appeals from the Police Magistrate's and District Commissioner's Courts.

These figures show an increase of 13 as compared with the previous year and an increase of six as compared with 1922–23.

Estates.

Letters of Administration were granted in two cases as compared with seven for the previous year.

Sittings.

The Court sat 177 days on Criminal cases and 86 days on Civil cases and Assizes Courts were held at Obuasi (thrice) Juaso (twice) Wenchi (twice) Sunyani (twice) Ejura and Kintampo during the year.

POLICE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, KUMASI.

30. Both the Criminal and Civil Cases show small decreases for the year as compared with the previous years, the decreases being 179 and 61 respectively.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S COURTS.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

31. Here again both the Criminal and Civil cases show decreases—large in proportion to the numbers tried as compared with the previous year, the numbers being for 1924–25, 1,952 and 818 respectively as compared with 2,375 and 1,083 respectively for the previous year.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

32. The Western Province also showed decreases in both Criminal and Civil Cases. 250 of the former cases were tried during the year as compared with 369 for the previous year while 137 of the latter cases were heard as compared with 168 for the previous year.

Inquests.

33. Seventy Inquests were held during the year as compared with 92 for the previous year.

GENERAL.

34. In all Courts (except the Chief Commissioner's) the civil cases were principally for debts arising out of money lent, advances for purchase and supply of produce and deficits in stocks of goods entrusted to Storekeepers. These latter were mostly contested cases. There is no doubt much litigation in open Court is saved by the advice of the Police Magistrate and District Commissioners in Chambers. This work which occupies several hours a week is much appreciated by the people, who it is believed, have great confidence in the Courts.

There was no serious outbreak of crime during the year and no riots.

There was however an increase in the number of murder cases as compared with the number dealt with in the two preceding years, the number for 1924–25 being 10 as against seven and five respectively for 1922–23 and 1923–24.

The great majority of cases were for breaches of Sanitary Laws and petty offences such as assaults and thefts. There was also a considerable increase in the number of prosecutions for offences under the Motor Ordinance.

35. Fines and Fees amounted to £8,910 as compared with £7,221 for the previous year, notwithstanding the large reduction in the numbers of Civil and Criminal cases.

With regard to the Fees the increase shows that the amounts involved must have been larger than in the previous year.

CONCESSIONS.

36. No Certificates of Validity for Concessions were applied for during the year and none were cancelled.

POLICE.

37. The strength of the Police Force in Ashanti on the 1st April, 1924, was 244 and at the end of the year 245.

The members of the Force were stationed at Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Juaso, Ejura, Ejisu, Sunyani, Wenchi, Goaso and Kintampo.

The following table shows the statistics for the last two years.

	No. of Offences reported to Police.	No. of Police Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.
1923–24 ..	3,064	2,562	2,077
1924–25 ..	3,006	2,531	2,021

The work of the Police was satisfactory. Owing to the outbreaks of plague and small-pox their duties were greatly increased, and were performed under mostly trying and difficult circumstances.

There were no riots or disturbances of any kind in Ashanti during the year.

PRISONS.

38. There are six Prisons in Ashanti, viz. :—Kumasi, Obuasi, Juaso, Ejura, Kintampo and Sunyani, also two "lockups" at Goaso and Wenchi. Convicted prisoners at these "lockups" are sent to Sunyani Prison.

The total number of convict prisoners admitted during the year was 1,006 as compared with 1,095 for the previous year while the total number of debtor prisoners admitted during the year was 136 as compared with 183 for 1923–24.

Female Prisoners are confined in Kumasi Prison only, but there is very little crime amongst women; last year the proportion of women convicts to men convicts was only .002 per cent.

The reconstruction of the Kumasi Central Prison referred to in last year's report made satisfactory progress.

The new Female prison was completed.

39. The Prison farms at Kumasi and Ejura were kept in good cultivation and Maize was sent from Kumasi to the Prisons in the Colony. The prisoners, as usual, were employed on skilled and unskilled labour: the skilled labour consisting of Brickmaking. (all the bricks used in the reconstruction of Kumasi Prison are made

and burned by the prisoners), Building, Carpentry and Laundry-work. The unskilled labour was employed on conservancy, cleaning bush and farming. The receipts from Prison Industries at Kumasi amounted to £1,060 as compared with £860 last year The discipline in all the Prisons was good and the health of the prisoners was uniformly excellent.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

40. The Medical Staff consisted of an Acting Assistant Director of Medical Services, a Medical Officer, both stationed at Kumasi, a Medical Officer stationed at Sunyani and a Medical Officer stationed at Kintampo.

A Medical Officer who is employed by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, but who by arrangement with the Government attends to all Government Officials at Obuasi.

The average number of European Residents in Ashanti during the year was 529.

There was one death and 16 cases of invaliding of Europeans during the year under review—three of the cases of invaliding being due to Black-water Fever.

The invaliding rate amongst officials was 9.36 per cent and amongst non-officials 4.16 per cent.

These figures compare with four deaths and five cases of invaliding for the previous year. The admissions to the European Hospital, Kumasi, numbered 133 as compared with 113 for the previous year, and 194 during 1922–23.

The admissions to the Native Hospitals numbered 2,179 as compared with 1,972 for 1923–24 whilst 14,508 outpatients were treated during the year as compared with 13,564 for the previous year. These cases were of the usual kind, Venereal disease, Yaws, Pulmonary affections, Ulcers and Malaria being the most common.

SANITATION.

41. There was a serious outbreak of plague in Kumasi during the year; an outbreak of small-pox in the Western Province and a small outbreak of influenza in the Goaso District.

42. The outbreak of Plague started on the 1st April, and continued sporadically until the 3rd March, after which there were no further cases. Out of 166 cases recorded 145 or 87.3 died. Rigorous anti-plague measures were adopted and Police Posts

established at the Railway Station and all roads. Professor Sir William Simpson visited Kumasi during the plague, and advised the local Sanitary Authorities.

223 Insanitary compound houses were demolished and a new Zongo Housing Scheme was carried out and accommodation found for 1,200 men, women and children who were dispossessed from insanitary houses in the old Zongo. Professor Sir William Simpson and the Senior Sanitary Officer have published separate reports dealing with this outbreak.

Small-pox.

43. The outbreak occurred early in the year in the Southern Province of the Northern Territories and notwithstanding the strong measures taken including the closing of the ferries infection was carried south into the Western Province in the Kintampo and Wenchi Districts. In order to protect Kumasi Town and the Southern Stations as far as possible a small-pox vaccination post was established about two miles north of Kumasi and anti-small-pox vaccination campaign was carried out amongst the townspeople, troops and school children.

Influenza.

44. Information was received on 7th October that a large number of deaths had occurred in the Goaso District. The Medical Officer of Sunyani at once proceeded to the site of the outbreak and fortunately the infection did not spread.

During the year under review the progress in improving the sanitation of the towns and villages continued but there is a tremendous amount of work yet to be done. With the opening up of the country by motor roads new villages have been laid out adjacent to the roads and old villages distant from the roads have been deserted. This forward movement is particularly noticeable in the Western Province and is an extremely satisfactory condition of affairs. It indicates greater trust by the Ashanti in the protection of life and property which the Administration affords and also indicates that the Ashanti is fully alive to the greater possibilities of disposing of his products to travellers and others. These new villages with the help of the Political and Sanitary Officers are all carefully laid out with fine broad streets and sanitary utilities. A number of these villages become important trade centres and their upkeep not infrequently gets beyond the control of the native authorities. Assistance from the Government is then necessary and village overseers regularly visit these villages in order to give such assistance. Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Kintampo and Sunyani are the principal towns and the sanitation of these towns is under European and African Officers. More funds were available during

the year for minor Sanitary Structures and public utilities, such as latrines and incinerators, were erected in various towns and the water supplies greatly improved. The sanitation of Bekwai for instance was taken in hand. A new Zongo was laid out and many houses in the old Zongo demolished and Sanitary Structures were constructed in the town.

New Railway Townships.

45. The lay-out of these Townships received considerable attention during the year and extensive progress was made in the majority of cases. Surveys were made and clearing operations, and the levelling and formation of Streets were commenced; building sites laid out and sites selected for public utilities.

At Konongo, which promises to become a very important centre, the Chief and people took a keen interest in the new Township and gave much valuable assistance to Government. On 28th June all the Townships on the Accra Kumasi Railway in Ashanti were brought under the Rules of the Ashanti Administration Ordinance with respect to the regulation of Towns, Streets and Markets.

Sanitation of Kumasi.

46. The Kumasi Sanitary Committee resumed its meetings in April and held monthly meetings throughout the year. Whilst the functions of the Committee were purely advisory it worked in the closest co-operation with the Senior Sanitary Officer and the Town Engineer. The Committee performed good work, and incidentally served as a useful training ground for those who had no experience of Local Government, and so helped to fit them in some way for the greater responsibilities they will have to undertake as members of the Kumasi Public Health Board.

The population at the last census (1921) was 23,694 and it is estimated that the population at the end of the year was approximately 28,000. The town limits are a radius of a mile and a half from the Fort and there are buildings scattered all over this area.

The usual Preventive Measures were taken against Insect Borne diseases including Malaria, Yellow Fever, Filariasis, Infectious and Epidemic Diseases. Large areas of swamps were filled in, one of which covered over 11 acres, and the site is now utilized as the new market site.

The keeping of Swine within the town area of Kumasi was prohibited during the year.

There was unfortunately no improvement in the quality of the Kumasi Water Supply as it is badly polluted B. Coli being present in O.OI C.C. but a radical improvement took place in protecting the supply and in opening up new sources.

There were no cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Cholera or Small-pox but a serious outbreak of Plague occurred and this is dealt with in the preceding paragraph.

The following statistics, excluding plague vaccinations, show the number of vaccinations during the year as compared with the two previous years :—

Total No. Vaccinated.			Total No. Successful.		
1922–23	1923–24	1924–25	1922–23	1923–24	1924–25
37,900	15,555	20,183	18,134	7,608	18,102

The general sanitary measures included the clearance of bush—no less than 148 acres being cut and burnt—the disposal of household refuse, the non-combustible materials of which were dumped in a ravine near the new sewage area about two miles from the town. A Motor Conservancy service was started in October and it proved a great success. A beginning was made with tree planting along the principal streets of Kumasi and a scheme was drawn up for the institution of an " Arbour Day."

The principal sanitary works included—

(a) The filling in of dangerous swamps two of which it is proposed to use as the new Market site and a Public Park respectively.

(b) 3,276 lineal yards of concrete drains; in addition, large numbers of earth channels were constructed.

(c) 14 Incinerators.

(d) 20 fly-proof dust bins.

(e) 20 concrete block latrines and 39 modified Salaga type latrines.

(f) Temporary Market sheds at the New Market and at the Zongo Market.

During the year there were 5,240 prosecutions for the breach of sanitary offences as against 1,521 for the previous year and the fines amounted to £1,817 as against £449 for 1923–1924.

Public Cemeteries.

47. The Public and Chiefs'cemeteries in Ashanti were, generally speaking, kept in good condition. An executive order was issued that no new cemetery was to be opened until the site had been approved by the Sanitary Authorities.

Public Slaughter Houses.

48. The following number of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were slaughtered during the year as compared with the previous year, viz :—

	1923–24.	1924–25.
Cattle	2,440	1,834
Sheep	1,972	1,925
Goats	2,392	2,556
Pigs	298	345

The fees collected amounted to £489 against £487 for the previous year.

Regulations of Buildings and Town Planning.

49. All applications for building permits with plans were submitted as hitherto to the Medical Officer of Health and the Town Engineer for their approval and the buildings during construction were supervised by the European Building Inspector. The number of applications received for Building permits was 109 and the number passed was 65.

It was regrettable that owing to the outbreak of plague little could be done as regards the general town planning scheme but towards the end of the year good progress was made. Model dwellings in connection with the new Hausa Zongo were completed.

50. **Municipal Rents and Fees.**

	1923–24.	1924–25.	Increase.	Decrease.
Rents from Town Plots	£5,649	£6,390	£741	—
Rents from Zongo ..	1,260	1,249	—	£11
Rents from Markets	247	368	121	—
Rents from Slaughter House	487	489	2	—

The increase in rents from Town Plots was satisfactory and at the end of the year there were practically no arrears.

51. The Sanitation of Obuasi is controlled by a Sanitary Committee composed of Government and Mine Representatives.

The Committee have the services of a European Village Overseer. The Sanitation is good. The Revenue of the Committee was £4,951 and the expenditure was £4,496.

These figures compare with £4,751 and £4,548 respectively for the previous year. The public utilities were maintained in good condition whilst the principal extraordinary works included 1,071 lineal feet of concrete drains, four new Bath houses and one washing place and filling in of swamps.

52. The Sanitation of Bekwai, which is developing rapidly as a trade centre, and of Juaso were reported as satisfactory.

METEOROLOGICAL.

53. The most noticeable feature during the year was the lack of rain in May, June and July. The shortage was made up to some extent during the latter months, but the total rainfall for the year was 6.77 below the average and the number of wet days was 16 less than the average.

The rainfall recorded at Kumasi during the year as compared with last year was as follows :—

	1924–25		1923–24
April	4.47		9.125
May	3.11		4.175
June	5.99		7.775
July	6.76		9.410
August	0.39		.335
September	6.77		5.790
October	6.47		6.265
November	3.45		3.315
December	2.66		1.315
January (1925)..	0.06	(1924)	.020
February	1.11		5.265
March	7.67		6.475
	48.91		59.240

The rainfall for 1922–23 was 65.25 inches.

The rainfall at other Stations in Ashanti was :—

	1924–25	1923–24
Mprim	56.080	70.690
Obuasi	65.26	—
Juaso	53.74	61.40
Sunyani	58.15	62.04
Kintampo	59.28	71.54

EDUCATION.

54. Education as in former years, has been conducted by the Government and the Missionary Societies. Government Primary Schools are established at Kumasi—boys and girls—at Juaso and Sunyani, whilst there are 28, as last year, Mission Primary Assisted Schools established in towns and villages throughout Ashanti, but principally in the Eastern Province. In addition there is a Government Junior Trade School at Mampong, Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre at Kumasi, to which reference is made under the Head of Agriculture, and the Wesleyan Mission Training College at Kumasi.

There are also 158 Non-assisted Missionary Primary Schools in numerous towns and villages as compared with 163 in the previous year.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government Primary Schools at the end of the year was 598 boys and 177 girls, total 775 with an average attendance throughout the year of 753. The numbers for 1923–24 were 648 boys and 188 girls total 836 with an average attendance throughout the year of 760. The Government School at Kumasi shows a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, due entirely to the outbreak of plague in Kumasi.

55. The Statistics of the Assisted Mission Schools were as follows, viz :—

Schools.	Enrolment.		Total.	Average Attendance.
	Boys.	Girls.		
Scottish Mission	939	171	1,110	951
Wesleyan Mission	787	83	870	754
Roman Catholic Mission ..	663	22	685	628
English Church Mission ..	304	—	304	247
A.M.E. Zion Mission ..	80	—	80	65
Total ..	2,773	276	3,049	2,645

The figures for the previous year were :—

Boys.	Girls.	Total	Average Attendance.
3,019	286	3,305	2,822

The slight decreases in these figures were again entirely due to the outbreak of plague in Kumasi.

Again the total number of enrolment at the Non-assisted Schools was 3,385 as compared with 3,781 for 1923–24.

The total number of children enrolled as pupils for the year was therefore :—

Government	775
Assisted Mission Schools	3,049
Non-Assisted Schools	3,385
	7,209

The estimated total population of Ashanti at present is approximately 486,000.

56. These figures prove conclusively that there is no lack of appreciation of the benefits of education in Ashanti. Chiefs readily offer to erect temporary School buildings and to contribute towards the cost of the teacher's Salary. The young Omanhene of Wenchi referred to in last year's Report is now a pupil at the English Church Mission School at Kumasi.

The education provided at these schools is of course elementary and those who aspire to a higher standard of education have to go either to Accra or Cape Coast. The Kumasi Council of Chiefs again requested the Government to establish a Secondary School in Kumasi.

57. During the year the Provincial Inspector of Schools inspected 14 Mission Schools and 5 were inspected by District Commissioners.

Unfortunately it was not possible for some months of the year for the Education Department to place in charge of Ashanti an Officer whose whole time could be given to the supervision of the Primary Schools.

Female Education.

58. The Government Girls School was much improved during the year. Domestic Training Subjects received as hitherto considerable attention and the premises used for cooking and laundry purposes were satisfactorily equipped. Plain sewing, Domestic Hygiene and Child Welfare were also taught.

It is extremely satisfactory to note that the increase in the enrolment of girls, as compared with boys continues to show steady progress.

59. The sum collected as School fees was £1,115 as compared with £1,059 for the previous year. This is a further indication of the desire for education on the part of the children and of the willingness of the parents to pay for the education of their children.

60. The plans for the New Government Boys' School at Kumasi referred to in last year's Report were under consideration at the end of the year. The site has already been selected and approved.

Wesley College.

61. The first year's working of this College can be regarded as very satisfactory. There were 66 students in Residence, 47 of whom were being trained as teachers and 19 as Catechists.

The students took an active part in the layout of the grounds.

Junior Trade School, Mampong.

62. The Headmaster reported that the progress of this school was not very satisfactory and he attributed the reason to the Instructors with two exceptions being unsatisfactory and the constant changing of Headmasters.

Fair progress was made with clearing the forest and school buildings. Excellent furniture was made by the Senior boys whilst the Juniors have made all the necessary furniture for the incoming class such as beds and tables.

It is regretted that satisfactory progress cannot be reported as the great desire of the Ashanti youth is to become a clerk. There is that false halo of gentility which fascinates the average youth, to the detriment of the craftsmen, which these Trade Schools assist in breaking down.

Boys Scouts Strength.

63. The strength of Scouts in Ashanti at the end of the year was as follows, viz. :—

Kumasi Local Association	7 troops.
Mampong	3 ,,

One new Troop was raised during the year.

The County Commissioner writes " A great advance has been made in the morale and efficiency of the different Troops and that is greatly due to the training which several of the Scout Masters received at the Kumawu Officers Training Camp. Troops are beginning to show something like the real Scout spirit and the Scout Masters have shown a great increase in efficiency and initiative. In fact a great advance has been made during the past year ".

RELIGION.

64. The number of Missionary bodies remained the same as hitherto throughout the year, viz. :—

(a) The English Church Mission continued to do good work and two new outstations—Mampong and Sunyani—were opened. The most important event of the year was the opening of St. Augustine's College for the training of African clergy and already 12 students have entered upon their theological course.

The Revd. Father writes—

> " It is impossible to forecast the influence of this College on the future of Ashanti but that it will be very great is beyond question."

(b) The Ashanti Scottish Mission. The field is divided into four districts; Kumasi, the Headquarters, remained without a resident European during the year and the work was supervised by the Senior African Minister in charge, who reported as follows :—

> " We are fully satisfied and gratified to note that our Church is growing under the permeating influence of the Gospel and in the increasing confidence of the people. There is no opposition anywhere. There is a growing desire for the Gospel and for Education."

(c) The Ashanti Wesleyan Mission continues to make good progress and to gain the confidence of the people. The European Staff consists of six Missionaries, (four of whom are ordained) as compared with three for the previous year.

(d) The Roman Catholic Mission. The European staff remained the same as the previous year.

> The Revd. Father writes " Enrolling decreases slightly owing to shortage of European personnel and scarcity of honest and zealous native catechists."

(e) The A.M.E. Zion Mission has a membership of 864.

(f) The Seventh Day Adventists continue to receive much encouragement in their work. Their Stations are all established in the Eastern Province with their Headquarters at Agona.

65. The writer again desires to record the excellent work which is being performed by the various Missionary bodies in Ashanti. The relations between the Christians and the non-Christian Africans generally have been very friendly and Christianity appears to be rapidly spreading.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

66. The outstanding features under this Head during the year under review were the return of Ex-King Prempeh to Ashanti on the 12th November, 1924, and the coming into force of the Ashanti Native Jurisdiction Ordinance on 1st August, reference to both of which is subsequently made.

The Provincial Commissioners report that the relationship between the Chiefs and the Government was, if possible, better than ever. The Chiefs have placed more and more confidence in the Government, a tribute to the work of past Political Officers. The relations between the Head Chiefs and their leading subjects were not so good, particularly is this the case in the divisions which were re-organised after the last Ashanti rising. A number of these Sub-Chiefs still claim that they are independent, but it is to be hoped that these claims for independence will be gradually abandoned. Other causes for discontent have been land disputes and settlement of tribal boundaries. As the country is being opened up and developed land becomes more valuable and the tendency is that disputes as to land boundaries increase in number but these were not so numerous as in previous years.

As stated in last year's report there is a gradual and almost imperceptible change coming over Native Affairs in Ashanti.

67. Some of the Stools were not free from trouble during the year under review but there were no riots and only one destoolment of an important Chief (Dengease). In fact the year has been extremely peaceful and one of steady progress and consolidation. It is of interest to record that an attempt was made to destool the Omanhene of Agona. The Chief Commissioner refused to confirm the destoolment and the Provincial Commissioner writes " the division is now in a more satisfactory condition than ever before."

68. With regard to the material progress of the people, it may be of interest if the writer quotes an opinion by a non-Government Officer who has made a close study of the character of the Ashantis during his eight months residence in the country.

He writes—

> " I have been much astonished at the great strides which have been made in developing the country since its occupation by the English, and this astonishment is increased rather than diminished by visits to the outlying towns and

villages. But most wonderful of all, to my mind, is the way in which the people of Ashanti are assimilating the civilisation which is thus being brought to them. Even in remote villages to which as yet there is no access but by a bush path, there are evident signs of an improved standard of living—better sanitary arrangements, better built and more spacious houses, arms bearing the marks of vaccination and so on. The desire for education is widespread and keen, showing that we are by no means covering the land with a veneer of civilisation which yet leaves the people as they were but that we have already succeeded in arousing in them a longing for better things."

69. The greatest event of this year to the Ashantis was the return of Ex-King Prempeh from the Seychelles. On bidding Good-bye to Prempeh in the Seychelles, His Excellency the Governor Sir Joseph Byrne gave a farewell address to the Ex-King in which he paid him and his followers a warm tribute, saying that their behaviour while resident in the Colony had been all that could be desired.

70. Prempeh arrived in Kumasi on November 12th and received a great welcome, an enormous crowd gathering to meet him outside his house. As Prempeh started to make his way through the crowd, the Christians present broke forth into the "Auld Hundredth" in which all the people joined although they did not know the words. The scene presented by the huge assembly of Ashantis with their white head bands signifying rejoicing or victory, some laughing and cheering, while others wept with emotion, was a most moving and never-to-be-forgotten sight.

For the first two or three months of his arrival, a continual stream of Chiefs and people visited him. The Chiefs of Ashanti raised a fund for Prempeh's Maintenance.

Prempeh was also granted an income by the Government. The money collected by the Amanhin and Chiefs is being administered by a Maintenance Committee of which a Political Officer is the President and two of the members represent the Chiefs in Ashanti.

The fund is being used in connection with Prempeh's house, furniture and other requirements.

A fine house standing in three acres of ground was built at Menhyia.

The ground will be laid out with ornamental shrubs by the Agricultural Department.

One of Prempeh's own family is at present attending the Agricultural school in Kumasi with a view to managing the latter's plantation, a piece of land 150 acres in extent situated near his house.

71. Prempeh who is a member of the Kumasi Public Health Board takes a keen interest in all matters appertaining to the progress and civilisation of his country, and is very modern and up to date in his ideas.

72. He is an earnest Christian, a member of the Church of England, and has the real interests of his country at heart.

NATIVE JURISDICTION ORDINANCE.

73. The writer ventures the opinion that the greatest credit is due to the Political Officers for their tact, discretion and painstaking efforts with which this Ordinance was put into operation. Prior to the introduction of the Ordinance on 1st August, 1924, the Provincial Commissioners accompanied by the respective District Commissioners visited the Headquarters of each Omanhene and Ohene whom it was proposed to give powers under the Ordinance and devoted considerable time in explaining the provisions of the Ordinance. Copies of the draft Ordinance were handed to the Chiefs, who were requested to discuss the provisions thereof and communicate with their Commissioners for further information where necessary. The Registrars of the Native Tribunals were given a course of instruction in the District Commissioners' Courts and towards the close of the year a pamphlet was issued containing notes for the guidance of the Native Tribunal Registrars and instructions with regard to the Court and Stool accounts. A copy of the pamphlet was sent to each Chief having powers under the Ordinance.

Generally speaking the District Commissioners were satisfied with the progress made by the Chiefs. Civil and Criminal Returns were rendered monthly and these showed a steady improvement.

The old Elders form the chief obstacle to the more satisfactory working of the Ordinance. From their point of view the most important features in the trial of cases are the killing of sheep and drinking of gin.

But as these old men are gradually succeeded by younger and more intelligent Elders, the Tribunals will become more and more efficient.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION POLICE.

74. Good progress has been made in bringing these Police up to a higher standard of efficiency.

The Police are sent to District Headquarters four times during the year for training. Trouble arose unfortunately, owing to the Chiefs not paying the Police regularly. The result was that the personnel continually changed owing to frequent resignations.

75. The record of the number of cases tried by the Native Tribunals was as follows :—

	Criminal.	Civil.
Kumasi District	153	80
Juaso ,,	190	173
Ejura ,,	52	82
Obuasi ,,	150	787
Sunyani ,,	27	58
Kintampo ,,	9	16
Wenchi ,,	24	29
Goaso ,,	7	11
	612	1,236

76. As the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance was only in force for eight months during the year under review, the figures given above cannot be used for the purposes of comparison, but serve to show that the District Commissioners' Courts have been relieved of an immense amount of Judicial work.

77. APPEALS FROM NATIVE TRIBUNALS TO DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' COURTS.

	Heard.	Upheld.	Reversed.
Kumasi District	26	22	4
Juaso ,,	3	1	2
Ejura ,,	19	13	6
Obuasi ,,	6	2	4
Sunyani ,,	10	8	2
Kintampo ,,	2	1	1
Wenchi ,,	9	4	5
Goaso ,,	—	—	—
	75	51	24

78. From the above it will be seen that the Appeals upheld amount to 66 per cent. of the total. This serves to indicate the impartiality of the Tribunals and the fact that their decisions are generally accepted by the people.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

79 Captain Rattray, M.B.E., was in charge of this work but was absent from Ashanti throughout the year. From April to October he was employed at the British Empire Exhibition.

After the Exhibition closed he was engaged in preparing for publication the notes of enquiries made during his previous tour. The result of these labours will shortly appear in two volumes entitled " Religion and Art in Ashanti ". The period under review saw the appearance of the first work of the Department namely " Ashanti " which was well received and favourably reviewed by the British Press.

PUBLIC WORKS.

80. The general conditions as regards labour and material were on the whole satisfactory, but towards the end of the year, when a rush of work was on, there was a shortage of native timber and the stock of cement became very low. The use of local material was increased by the installation of a Tile factory at Tamale where large quantities of red floor tiles, roof tiles and building bricks were made and used in construction.

81. £9,683 was expended on Public Works, Annually Recurrent (excluding roads) and the Provincial Engineer reported that the whole of the programme was carried out.

The Bungalows, Government buildings, plant and machinery were kept in good order and repair.

82. Under the Public Works Extraordinary Votes (excluding roads) £20,360 was expended during the year. The principal works being the erection of the Cadbury Hall, Police Barracks, Bekwai, and Powder Magazine, Kumasi.

83. Further as usual a considerabl eamount of structional work was done for other Departments and until the arrival of the Town Engineer on the 1st August, 1924, the Provincial Engineer was in charge of the Kumasi Public Health Board work.

84. There was also a large amount of work in connection with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' visit including the erection of three Grand Stands on the Polo Ground for the Grand Palaver. In addition to the work undertaken by the Public Works Department the Political Service constructed serviceable and suitable buildings at outstations such as a Bungalow for the Assistant District Commissioner, Juaso, Court House at Sunyani, Clerks Quarters, Police Quarters, Postmaster's Quarters and Offices at the various District Headquarters.

KUMASI PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD.

85. The preliminaries in connection with the establishment of this Board referred to in last year's Report made good progress, and at the end of the year the Ordinance had been finally approved. Works on the Sanitary Improvements Extraordinary made excellent progress notwithstanding the fact that the Town Engineer did not arrive until 1st August when he took over the duties from the Provincial Engineer.

86. The most important work was the preparation of the scheme for the Surface Water Drainage which will be capable of carrying away the discharge from the usual heavy rains experienced in Kumasi and at the same time prevent the periodic damage to roads by washouts.

87. Amongst the most important works carried out were :

(a) **The New Market Site.**—This site, which was a dangerous malarious swamp in the centre of the town, was filled up and the level raised and Nine temporary sheds were erected thereon.

(b) **Demolition of Old Asafu.**—The whole area of Old Asafu, unsightly and insanitary native dwellings, was demolished with a view to town planning.

(c) **Sanitary Structures.**—21 Latrines 14 Incinerators 32 reinforced concrete drying sheds of improved types were constructed.

(d) **New Trenching Ground and Approach Road.**

(e) **Prince of Wales' Park.**—The filling in of another dangerous malarious swamp in the centre of the town and adjoining the New Market Site was started and good progress made.

(f) **Swamp at Ejisu Road.**—The unhealthy low lying ground on the North side of Ejisu Road was filled in and an 80 feet long concrete culvert constructed.

(g) Water Chlorination Scheme prepared and the necessary indent for the plant forwarded to the Crown Agents.

(h) Five Bungalows were erected for the Staff.

(i) New Hausa Zongo Housing Scheme. The site which was dense forest was cleared and 36 compounds each compound containing 12 rooms constructed.

88. Notwithstanding a depleted Staff £70,926 was expended during the year and the work reflected great credit upon the Town Engineer and his Assistants.

ROADS.

89. The mileage of motor and motorable roads (exclusive of Town Roads) in Ashanti at the end of the year was 836½ of which the Public Works Department maintained 169 and the Political Officers 667½ miles. These roads were not only maintained in good order and condition, but construction of additional mileage by the Political Officers made excellent progress.

During 1924–1925, 115 miles additional motorable roads were constructed of which 65 miles were in the Eastern Province and 50 miles in the Western Province but at the end of the year 56½ miles had not been opened for traffic owing to various reasons.

The following tables show how the mileage of motor and motorable roads in Ashanti have increased during the last four years, viz:—

1921–22	.. .. ..	500 miles.
1922–23	.. .. ..	557 ,,
1923–24	.. .. ..	721½ ,,
1924–25	.. .. ..	836½ ,,

90. £23,343 was expended upon Road Maintenance during the year, whilst £22,253 was expended upon Road Construction.

The following Roads (exclusive of Town Roads) were maintained by the Public Works Department.

Road A.1.	Kumasi to Prang	.. ..	116 miles.
,, A.2.	Kumasi to Ahiniresu	.. ..	20 ,,
,, A.23.	Ntonsu to Effiduasi	.. ..	10 ,,
,, A.8.	Kumasi towards Kunsu	..	6 ,,
,, A.9.	Kumasi ,, Mpasetia	..	6 ,,
,, A.5.	Kumasi ,, Abofuor	..	6 ,,
,, A.10.	Bekwai ,, Tredeh	..	5 ,,
			169 miles.

The portion of A.8, 9,5, and 10 taken over by the Public Works Department have been reconstructed, gravelled and tarmetted.

91. These Roads were well maintained during the year and generally are in good condition. The reconstruction of the Affram Bridge on the Great North Road was completed during the year. The bridge which is of reinforced concrete consists of six spans of 30 feet each and in addition two large concrete relief Culverts were built. The completion of this Bridge is a great improvement to this Road.

92. The outstanding feature of the Ashanti Roads during the year was the beginning made of Tarmetting. Two Districts were selected:

(a) Roads radiating from Kumasi.

(b) Roads radiating from Bekwai.

Good progress was made and the work may now be considered as well in hand. The sum of £30,247 was expended during the year.

93. The following are the roads on which work was commenced viz.:—

Road A.1. Kumasi to Mampong
Road A.5. Kumasi to Ofinsu
Road A.8. Kumasi to Kunsu
Road A.9. Kumasi to Nkawe
Road A.10. Bekwai to Kumasi
Road A.14. Bekwai to Kuntanasi.

94. Another advance made during the year was the training of African Overseers; no fewer than 14 being employed. Owing to the efficiency of these Road Overseers one European Executive Engineer was in charge for the whole year, of all road work, including Maintenance, new construction, new Bridge work and Tarmetting from Kumasi to Yegi a distance of 142 miles.

Roads constructed and maintained by Political Officers.

95. The most important road completed during the year was the Kumasi Sunyani Road which links up the two Provincial Headquarters and in fact makes the hitherto isolated and backward Western Province within three hours motor run from Kumasi.

96. Special mention should be made of the excellent work done by the Head Chiefs of Jasiwa and Kyidom Stools. These two Kumasi Chiefs remained on the road for nine months and by their personal example encouraged their people to do good work. In spite of the increased traffic and weight of Lorries the roads were maintained satisfactorily throughout the cocoa season.

97. In October the maintenance of that portion of the Kumasi Accra Road from Ahwireso to Kwah" Prasu was transferred from the Public Works Department to the Political so as to allow the Roads Engineers to devote more time to the more important Political roads around Kumasi. The transfer proved to be a great success from that point of view.

98. Excellent bridges were constructed over the Formangso and the Prasu at Kwahu. Whilst on all the political roads the work of replacing the temporary wooden bridges and culverts with concrete or Armco culverts showed such good progress that lorries with trailer each weighing 2½ tons gross were allowed on certain of these political roads.

99. The cost of maintenance not only of the roads already constructed but those which must be constructed within the next five years in order to develop the country is and will be a very serious drain on the resources of the finances of the Colony. The motor traffic is increasing rapidly and in addition to the increase in the number of lorries it must be remembered that the use of a heavier type of lorry and trailer has become almost universal.

WATER SUPPLY.

100. The weir of the Ofin River at Mprim, the Western Subin and Denyami together with rain gauges, were kept in order and the readings taken regularly.

The local well Water Supply for Kumasi was considerably increased and improved as far as it has been possible to do so, but until the proposed pipe borne water supply is introduced this supply will always be totally insufficient for the increasing population and not free from danger on account of its impurity.

REST HOUSES.

101. The Rest Houses, except the one in Kumasi which is under the care of the Transport Department, were well maintained by the Political Officers. They are as a rule good and comfortable buildings, but with the advent of the motor a number have been allowed to fall into disrepair as their maintenance was unjustifiable. Three new Rest Houses were built by Political Officers during the year.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

102. The Government fleet of vehicles at Kumasi on the 1st April, 1924, was one touring Car and five lorries, the number of vehicles at the end of the year was two touring Cars and eight lorries, two of the latter being old and held in reserve. The Department, which is run on commercial lines as far as possible shows a net profit of £3,262 as compared with a loss of £115 the previous year. The net profit was due to the arrival of new lorries which were kept on constant use during the year.

The following table shows the tonnage and number of loads carried during the year as compared with the previous year.

	1923–24.	1924–25.
Officers' loads	10,319	10,441
Government loads	6,373	19,961
Total loads conveyed ..	16,692	30,402
Weight of Officers' loads ..	265 tons	261 tons
Weight of Government loads ..	301 ,,	1,983 ,,
Total weight conveyed ..	566 ,,	2,244 ,,

The number of passengers carried during the year was 2,945 as compared with 1,220 for the previous year.

The total mileage covered by these vehicles during the year was 121,236 as compared with 54,638 for 1923–24.

Vehicles had to be hired from Contractors as heretofore and £5,125 was paid for this service as compared with £12,181 for the previous year. In addition to maintaining and running its own fleet the Department was responsible for the maintenance of the Post Office Mail Vans, the lorries used by the Public Works Department in connection with the construction and maintenance of roads, and from 1st October for the Conservancy lorries of the Kumasi Public Health Board.

Great credit is due to the Officers of the Department for these most satisfactory results.

RAILWAYS.

103. Reference must be made to the Railway Department Annual Report for detailed information regarding the working of the Railways in Ashanti. The service during the year was maintained satisfactorily. Heavy engines worked through to Obuasi on the completion of the Dunkwa–Obuasi deviations on 3rd November. The deviations between Obuasi and Kumasi were started during the year. Good progress was made but at the end of the year the work had not been completed.

The inward traffic to all Stations in Ashanti was 35,472 tons, as against 33,771 tons for the previous year. These goods consisted principally of building materials, machinery, cotton goods and tinned provisions.

The outward goods traffic from all Stations in Ashanti was 58,374 tons as compared with 68,244 tons in the previous year. This traffic principally consisted of Cocoa 54,935 tons as compared with 61,176 tons for 1923–24 and Kola 2,736 tons as against 2,983 tons.

The Railway Receipts were as follows:—

	1924–25.	1923–24.
For goods exported from Ashanti	£237,280	£256,029
For goods imported into Ashanti ..	110,477	129,444
For Coaching Traffic	57,916	52,076
	£405,673	£437,549

In addition to these figures 7,364 tons of timber were railed from Dunkwa. The greater proportion of this tonnage was the product of the Ashanti forests and floated down the River Ofin.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

104. The following separate statistics for Ashanti only are available, viz.:—

Sale of Stamps	£20,811
Money Orders issued	32,564
Money Orders paid	7,494
Parcel Post Exported	1,564
do. Imported	16,386
Duty collected	10,370
Inland Telegrams Despatched ..	47,002
Cablegrams despatched	4,201
Cablegrams received	3,285

It is impossible to compare these figures with the figures for the previous year as no separate statistics were available. There is no doubt however that there was an all round increase of business.

TELEGRAPHS.

The addition of extra facilities for duplex working on the direct lines to Accra and Sekondi and a phantom telegraph line by superimposing on the telephone trunk lines were installed and greatly helped to accelerate the disposal of telegraph traffic. It may be of interest to record that the average time taken on cablegrams between London and Kumasi was 45 minutes.

TELEPHONES.

The first trunk telephone between Kumasi and Sekondi was opened on the 3rd November. An intermediate trunk line connecting Bekwai, Obuasi with Sekondi was also opened.

A Telephone exchange with three subscribers was opened at Bekwai in December.

The subscribers to the Kumasi Telephone Exchange showed the very large increase of 45, the number on 31st March, 1924, being 32.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

The following transactions took place in the seven Post Office Savings Banks in Ashanti, as compared with the previous year.

	Deposits.		Withdrawals.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1923–4 ..	726	£3,193	368	£4,147
1924–5 ..	948	3,563	449	3,417

It is worthy of note that the number of depositors increased considerably showing the increasing faith in the people in trusting their money to the Bank rather than hiding it in the earth.

GENERAL.

105. All services were most satisfactorily maintained during the year except the telegraphic service to and from Western Province. A new concrete type 1 Post Office was opened at Bekwai in June, and Postal Agencies were opened at Kokofu and Kumawu.

There were in Ashanti at the end of the year under review

8	Post and Telegraph Offices.
13	Telegraph Postal Agencies.
7	Non Telegraph Postal Agencies.
Total 28	

SURVEYS.

106. During the twelve months under review an area of 2,300 square miles was topographically surveyed and the standard sheets of Sunyani, Kukuom, Abeasi, Nkoranza, Wenchi and Sikassiko completed. Work was also begun on the Mim and Berekum sheets.

A party were employed at the end of the year on fixing certain points by means of wireless longitudes and astronomical latitudes. This is a quick and cheap method of providing a framework for the Topographical Surveyors.

The Provincial Surveyor also accomplished a good year's work. No fewer than 17 surveys of Townships, boundary disputes and roads were made. The principal work carried out was the Kumasi Town Survey. Actual survey work on this was nearly completed during the year, the main work on hand now being the drawing and plotting of the sheets and the examination in the field of the plotted work.

GENERAL.

107. The year under review has been one of steady material progress amongst the people. So far as trade was concerned, although the figures are slightly below those of the previous year, this is no indication that there has been any set back in the development of the country. On the contrary, taking into consideration that the outbreak of plague, which continued practically throughout the year and which undoubtedly deterred people visiting Kumasi, it is surprising that the returns are so good.

108. The main features of interest during the year under review have been the return of ex-King Prempeh, the passing, and coming into force of the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance on August 1st, 1924, and the unfortunate outbreak of Plague in Kumasi. Prempeh on his arrival was most joyfully received by a large concourse of the people. Almost immediately he began to show a most intelligent interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement of Ashanti and its people, and has taken a keen interest in the Kumasi Public Health Board, of which he is a member. The working of the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance has made good progress since its inauguration and has already been dealt with. The Chiefs undoubtedly appreciate the value of the Tribunals, as is shown by the numerous applications from sub-chiefs to be allowed jurisdiction under the Ordinance. Of the 1,667 cases disposed of during the year only 75 were appealed to District Commissioners' Courts. It is interesting to note that this year there was a falling off in the number of land cases brought before the Courts as compared with recent years.

109. His Excellency the Governor honoured Ashanti with two visits during the year in December and again in February. There were not so many changes among the Political Staff as in former years.

The writer was absent on furlough from 7th December until 17th March.

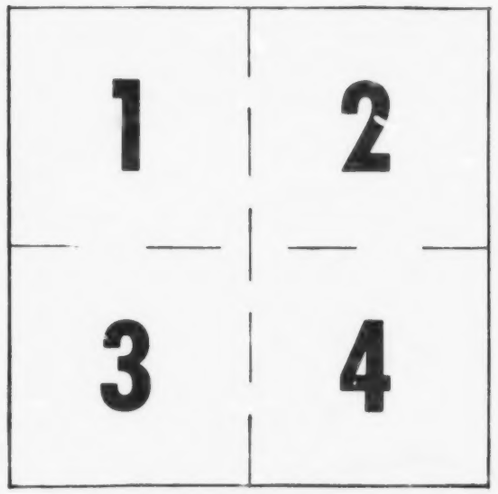
110. The writer cannot close this Report of his first year's administration without acknowledging, with a deep feeling of gratitude, the loyalty of all his Officers—European and African—who have at all times given their most generous assistance, and the devotion of the people of Ashanti to the Administration.

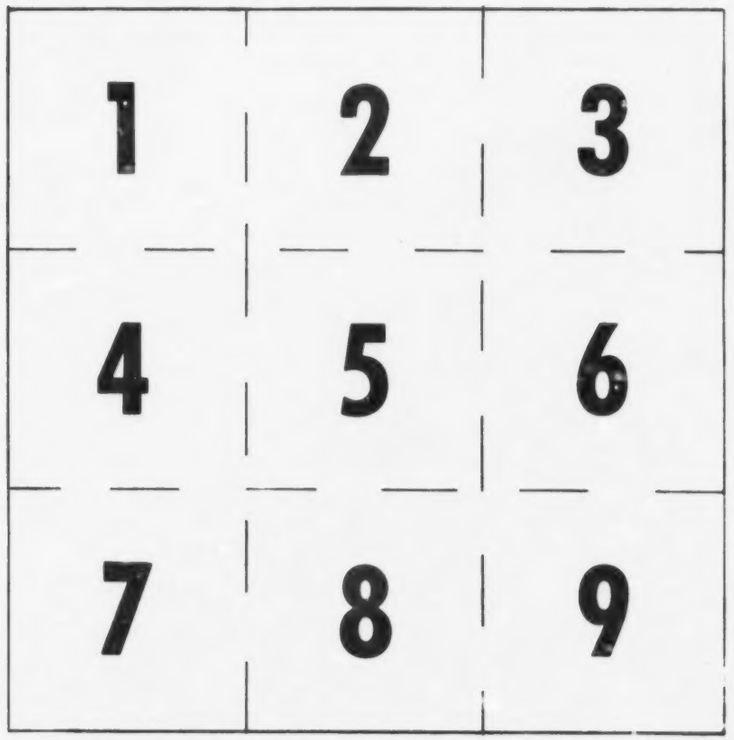
JOHN MAXWELL,

Chief Commissioner, Ashanti.

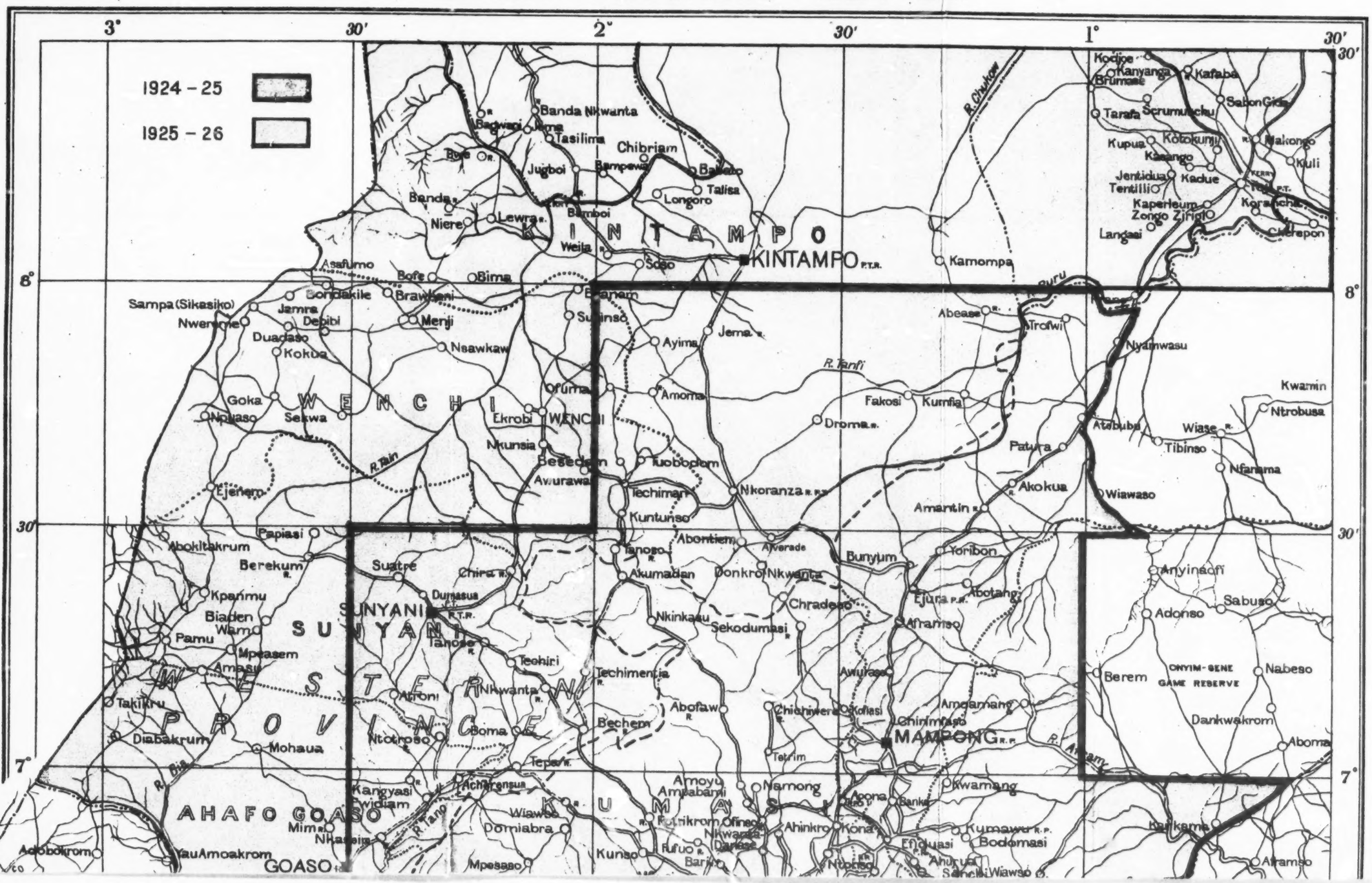
30*th June*, 1925.

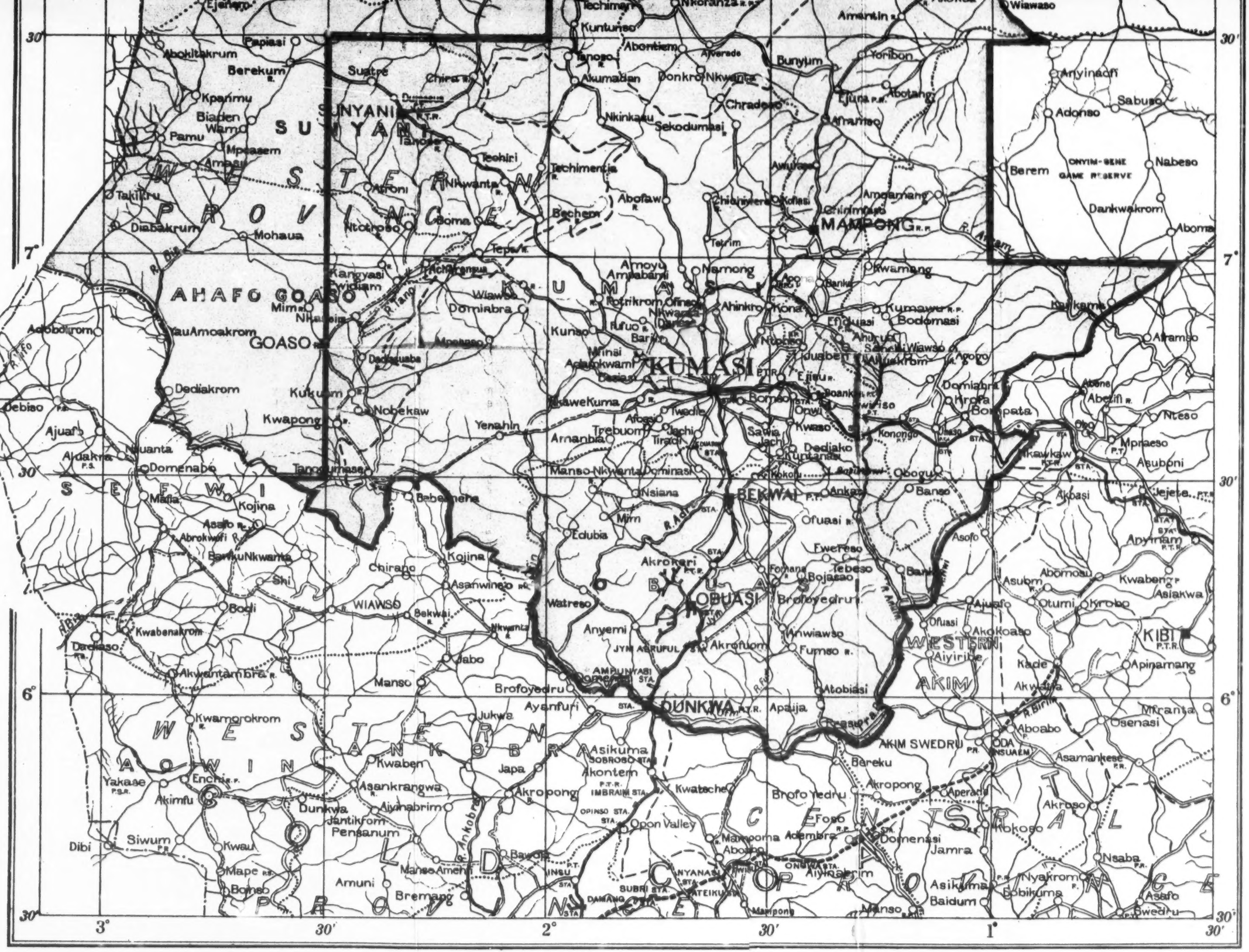
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





SURVEY PROGRESS 1924-26.




SUNYANI
SUNYANI
WESTERN PROVINCE
AHAFO GOASO
GOASO
KUMASI
BEKWAI
OBUASI
DUNKWA
MAMPONG
ONYIM-BENE GAME RESERVE
WESTERN AKIM
AKIM SWEDRU
KIBI
WIAWSO
SEFWI
WESTERN AOWIN SUHUM BOND PROVINCE
CENTRAL CONVENTION PROVINCE
Techiman
Kuntunso
Nkoranza
Amantin
Wiawaso
Papiasi
Abokitakrum
Berekum
Suatpe
Chiraa
Kpanmu
Biaden
Warm
Pamu
Mpeasem
Amasu
Takikru
Diabakrum
Mohaua
Tanoso
Techiri
Nkwanta
Afroni
Ntotroso
Coma
Tepa
Kangyasi
Widiam
Nchirampua
Mim
Nhaniem
Domiabra
Adobofurom
YauAmoakrom
Mpaaso
Dadeasuaba
Dediakrom
Debiso
Ajuafo
Kukuom
Nobekaw
Kwapong
Yenahin
Aldakra
Nkuanta
Domenabo
Tanoboasa
Mafia
Kojina
Babeasuaha
Asafo
Abrokwafi
Barekuakwanta
Shi
Chirano
Asanwinso
Bodi
Bekwai
Nkwanta
Kwabenakrom
Dadiaso
Akwantambra
Jabo
Manso
Kwamorokrom
Jukwa
Ayamfuri
Brofoyedru
Techimentia
Abofaw
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Berem
Nabeso
Dankwakrom
Aboma
Amoyu
Amabarni
Namong
Apo
Bankai
Kwamang
Rotrikrom
Ofinso
Nkwanta
Darkwa
Ahinkro
Kona
Ejisu
Bodomasi
Kumawu
Kunso
Bankro
Ntonso
Juaben
Wiawso
Agogo
Mininai
Adankwami
Dwaben
Ejisu
Kukurama
Afamso
Dediakrom
Kwaweduma
Bomso
Twedie
Afosso
Trebuom
Tiraso
Sawia
Jachi
Kwaso
Onwi
Konongo
Dediako
Kuntanase
Dominasi
Manso Nkwanta
Kokofu
Obogu
Banso
Nsiana
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Akrokeri
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Fweteso
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Bojasao
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Fumso
Akrofuom
Jyn Agruful
Ampunwasi
Watreso
Anyemi
Apaija
Atobiasi
Ofuasi
Ako Koaso
Aiyiribe
Kade
Akwatia
Apinamang
Abomosu
Asubu
Otumi
Krobo
Kwabeng
Asiakwa
Abene
Abetifi
Nteso
Mpraeso
Asubpni
Akbasi
Jejeta
Apynnam
Aboabo
Mkranta
Osenasi
Asamankese
Bereku
Akropong
Aperadi
Brofo Yedru
Foso
Adembra
Domenasi
Jamra
Akroso
Kokoso
Nsaba
Nyakrom
Bobikuma
Asafo
Swedru
Asikuma
Baidum
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Mampong
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Akropong
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Aiyinabrim
Dunkwa
Jantikrom
Pensanum
Akontem
Sobroso
Imbrain
Opinso
Opon Valley
Kwatsche
Abodom
Onwa
Nyanas
Subri
Damang
Bawdie
Insu
Amuni
Bremang
Manso Amehi
Siwum
Kwau
Mape
Bonso
Dibi
Yakase
Enchia
Akimfu
Suhum
Ankobra R.
Tano R.
Pra R.
Birim R.
Densu R.
Afram R.
Offin R.
Oda R.
Ajumako
Enyan Abaasa
Apam
Winneba
Mankessim
Swedru
Saltpond
Agona
Nsaba
Elmina
Cape Coast
Takoradi
Sekondi
Axim
Half Assini
Tarkwa
Prestea
Bogoso
Dunkwa
Konongo
Nkawkaw
Kibi
Koforidua
Suhum
Nsawam
Aburi
Accra
Tema
Ada
Keta
Ho
Kpando
Hohoe
Kete Krachi
Yeji
Salaga
Tamale
Bole
Wa
Navrongo
Bolgatanga
Gambaga
Yendi
Gushiegu
Zabzugu
Tatale
Kintampo
Atebubu
Prang
Techiman
Nkoranza
Wenchi
Sunyani
Berekum
Dormaa
Goaso
Kumasi
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Cape Coast
Takoradi
Sekondi
Axim
Tarkwa
Prestea
Bogoso
Half Assini
Elubo
Kumasi
Accra
Tema
Ho

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1339.

ASHANTI.

REPORT FOR 1925–26.

(For Report for 1923-24 see No. 1252 (Price 1s. 6d.) and for Report for 1924-25 see No. 1289 (Price 1s. 9d.)

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ANNUAL REPORT ON ASHANTI, 1925—26.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Ashanti is constitutionally separate and distinct from the Gold Coast Colony and the Northern Territories Protectorate, but so far as Finance is concerned, all three are treated as a single unit. It is therefore impossible to estimate the Revenue and Expenditure, except those items which are purely local.

II.—REVENUE.

2. The Local receipts from all sources including the Kumasi Public Health Board amounted to £78,195, as compared with £60,018 in 1924-25.

The most important items were :—

	1924-25.	1925-26.
Motor Licences	£3,554 ..	£6,631
Spirit Licences	6,437 ..	8,366
Firearms	623 ..	5,406
Court Fines and Fees ..	8,828 ..	11,953
Rents of Government Lands	7,599 ..	5,734
Mining Royalties	17,090 ..	20,157

The main increases are accounted for as under :—

Motor Licences.—More Vehicles on the Roads and a slight increase on Tax on Passenger-carrying Vehicles.

Spirit Licences.—Country being opened up and an increased Tax levied by the Kumasi Public Health Board in Kumasi.

Firearms.—Law amended whereby Dane Guns are now licensed for their life at a cost of £1, instead of 2/6 every 5 years.

Court Fines and Fees.—By increased number of Prosecutions under Sanitary Regulations and Motor Traffic Ordinance and increased litigation.

Mining Royalties.—Increased out-put by Mines. The decrease shown under Rents of Government Lands is accounted for by the fact that all Rents were not collected at the end of the year; but have since been brought to account.

3. It is regretted that no separate statistics are kept of Imports and Exports from Ashanti, therefore the only method of arriving at an approximate estimate would be from the detailed figures supplied from the Railway receipts for goods carried to and from Ashanti.

4. The Railway receipts were as follows, *viz* :—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
Coaching	£57,916 ..	£54,080
Goods from Stations in Ashanti		
Cocoa	217,824 ..	225,973
Kola	8,539 ..	7,228
General Merchandise	10,913 ..	11,731
Goods to Stations in Ashanti ..	110,447 ..	160,777
Total	£405,639 ..	£459,789

III.—EXPENDITURE.

5. The local expenditure of all departments with the exception of the Railway, for which no separate figures are kept for Ashanti, was £474,226 as compared with £379,288, for the previous year, thus showing the large increase of £94,938.

The Principal items of expenditure were :—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
Political Administration ..	£33,259 ..	£39,536
Medical and Sanitary Services	43,155 ..	35,657
Gold Coast Regiment	46,274 ..	49,191
Public Works Department ..	18,855 ..	13,295
Public Works Annually Recurrent	34,780 ..	43,234
Public Works Extraordinary including special works ..	149,107 ..	218,166

The large increase is mainly under Public Works Department, for details of which see sub-head " Public Works " of this report.

The decrease under Medical and Sanitary Services does not infer that these Departments are in any way becoming less active but during the year it was found that such stringent measures were not necessary as in the previous year when there was an epidemic of Plague.

IV.—TRADE.

6. Owing to the rapid development in recent years and to the construction of Roads it is only natural that Trade in Ashanti is on the increase.

Although Ashanti has no Oversea Trade apart from the Colony, it has a large Overland trade through the Northern Territories to the Western Part of the Sahara, in which large numbers of Donkeys are employed in conveying Kola, Salt, and Merchandise Goods.

It is difficult to calculate the actual volume of Trade passing through the Country owing to the non-establishment of Declaration Ports; however, the Police at Kintampo, which is not on the main Trade Route, report the following as having passed through that Station :—

Cattle	8,286
Sheep and Goats	23,998
Fowls	38,473
Donkey Loads going North	25,434
Head Loads going North	25,658
Motor Vehicles	785

The majority of the loads carried by Hausas consists of Beads, Pomades, Cloths, Mirrors, Knives and Haberdashery.

Donkeys coming South are generally loaded with Shea Butter, Dewa Dewa, Native Soap, etc.

Apart from the Railway Receipts shown under Revenue, all other available statistics go to prove that Trade in Ashanti for the year under review was better than in any year prior to the boom year of 1920.

At the writer's request an influential merchant submitted the following interesting report :—

> " As requested I append my views on the trade of Ashanti for " the Government financial year 1925-26. When I say " Ashanti I particularly refer to Kumasi and the country to " the North, East and West. South of Kumasi does not " come under my supervision and therefore any information " I give I could not vouch for. Speaking generally the " Trade for Ashanti over the period referred to has been " on a very much increased scale to that of the previous " year and the volume of trade done can be safely said " to be the largest since the boom year of 1920/1921. The " reason for this large increase is easily explained by the " fact that the farmer received an appreciably increased " price for his produce during the Cocoa Season (*i.e.* October " to March) of 1924/1925 over that of previous seasons since

" the boom year, and consequently there was a big carry over " of money at the end of the Season which enabled the " people to continue putting this money in circulation right " up to the commencement of the Cocoa Season of 1925/26. " In addition to this, prices for Plantation Rubber soared " up during 1925/1926 and consequently Merchants in " Ashanti were able to offer a sufficiently attractive price " for wild rubber with the result that a fair amount of money " was put in circulation on this account. This is rather " interesting in view of the fact that there had been no " harvesting of wild rubber to any extent in Ashanti since " about 1913. It is difficult to estimate the total value of " goods imported to Ashanti during the last financial year " as this information could only be correctly arrived at by " each individual Firm agreeing to divulge their figures. It " is however, in my opinion, a conservative estimate in put- " ting this figure down at approximately £1,250,000. The " bulk of the Imports into Ashanti consists of Cotton Goods, " Hardware Goods, such as Iron Sheets, Building Materials " and Miscellaneous articles of utility, Drinkables and Pro- " visions in the order mentioned. Whilst on the question of " imports it does seem a pity that such a big percentage of " the essential requirements of Ashanti has to be imported " from the Continent, this being due chiefly to the fact that " cost of production is cheaper there and also to a lesser " degree to the fact that the British Manufacturer does not " adapt himself so readily to the requirements of the West " African Market.

" A pleasing feature about the Trade of Ashanti of recent " years, and particularly of 1925/26 is the manner in which " the Native of Ashanti is realising the value of having sub- " stantial structures in which he is using such commodities as " Iron Sheets and Cement in increasing quantities every year " The Trade of Ashanti however is apt to have violent " fluctuations due of course to the fact that the Native of " Ashanti is at present entirely dependent on the produce " of his Cocoa Farm for money with which to buy his require- " ments; this is a state of affairs that should if possible be " overcome by impressing on them how necessary it is not to " rely on the harvest of any particular produce. This sub- " ject is, I understand, under the serious consideration of the " Government.

" *Motor Transport.*—With the extraordinary development of " Roads that has taken place in Ashanti during the last few " years it is pleasing to note that the Native of Ashanti is " reaping the full benefit. He is going in for Motor Trans- " port himself in increasing numbers every year and of course " is getting his commodities cheaper and realising a much

" better price for his produce. A very good illustration of " this is the recently constructed Sunyani Road which was " opened for traffic at the commencement of the Cocoa " Season of 1925/1926. Hitherto all the Cocoa coming from " that District had to be either head loaded to road head at " Kunsu or hauled by motor transport to Kumasi *via* Ejura. " In both cases the farmer was the sufferer and it can be " safely said that in the Western Province of Ashanti the " Farmer as a whole received anything from 100 to 300% " more for his produce during the last season as compared " with previous years. Roads also are now being more " consolidated enabling heavier loads to be hauled with the " result that Motor Transport is now being carried on under " very competitive rates which in turn reflects very much " in favour of the Native generally.

" *Cocoa.*—Whilst the ruling price for cocoa during the " late season was approximately 20% below that of the pre- " vious year this was more than compensated by the increased " tonnage harvested. My data puts this down at approxi- " mately, 7,000 tons although personally I think it was more. " The total tonnage harvested was approximately 60,000 " tons for which the farmer received on a conservative " estimate £23 10s. 0d., per ton. The tonnage mentioned " is for the whole of Ashanti from which it will be seen that " the amount of money paid only for Cocoa alone amounted " to £1,410,000. The increase in tonnage marketed is very " marked but can be more or less accounted for by several " reasons. (1) The failure of middle crop of 1925 which " materially increased the main crop of 1925/1926. (2) " Better facilities for harvesting due principally to increased " Motor Transport facilities particularly from the Western " Province of Ashanti where in previous years a considerable " quantity of Cocoa was unable to be harvested. I therefore " think in Ashanti we have just about reached the zenith " of our Cocoa production for some years to come.

" A significant feature about the Cocoa Season is that " it now lasts approximately four months whereas only a few " years back it could be reckoned to last 7 to 8 months. " This is entirely due to increased mileage of roads and Motor " Transport.

" *Other Exports.*—Apart from Cocoa the only Produce " of importance exported from Ashanti is Mahogany Logs " but of this I am unable to give any reliable information. " Of course wild Rubber is a potential export but this is " always governed by the price of Plantation Rubber. When " Plantation Rubber rises to the neighbourhood of 2/6 a lb " or more it is then possible to offer a price that induces

" the Natives to bring in Wild Rubber. This happened
" during 1925/1926 when as much as 45/- per load was paid
" for it and as a result considerable quantities were exported
" from Ashanti—a reasonable estimate being 300 tons.
" Now however that Plantation Rubber has again dropped
" in price it is impossible to offer a price that appeals to
" the Native. Unfortunately the converting of Wild Rubber
" into Sheet or Crepe is a laborious and expensive process
" and as nowadays there are very few Manufacturers with
" the necessary Machinery for treating it, it follows that
" there is a very limited market for its sale and due advan-
" tage is taken of this fact when the commodity is put on
" the market ".

IV.—AGRICULTURE.

7. As in previous years Cocoa is still the main product of Ashanti and the prosperity of the country depends mainly on it.

The Government has established 3 Agricultural Stations, *viz* :— Kumasi, Juaso, the Headquarters of the Ashanti-Akim District, and Ejura.

The area of these 3 Stations amounts to 296 acres of which 210 are under cultivation. Various experiments are conducted both in indigenous and introduced crops.

In addition to these stations, 4 of the permanent Staff of the Agricultural Department are stationed in Ashanti and their duties mainly consist in travelling off the beaten track lecturing and advising the Farmers.

It is gratifying to record that the instructions so issued are welcomed by the people who doubtless eventually benefit by the knowledge.

8. *Cocoa*.—The Crop was slightly heavier than during the previous year, the quantity railed from Stations in Ashanti being a few thousand tons more than in any former year. The quality compared favourably with that of other seasons.

Extensions and improvement of the Road System are doing much to shorten the buying period, and in consequence the crop is reaped and sold much earlier than formerly.

In the Western Province farmers received as much as 100% more for their Cocoa than in any previous year. This was due mainly to the opening of the Sunyani Road.

9. The cost of transporting Cocoa by Motor was reduced considerably owing to competition amongst the very large number of Lorry Owners at present in Ashanti.

A fair average price irrespective of type used would be 1/- a ton Mile.

As in previous years the majority of the Lorries used is of American make.

10. *Diseases and Pests.*—The Plants (Injurious Pests) Ordinance having been applied to Ashanti, preliminary work was started in August, in Kumasi, by the various European special officers undergoing a course of training in dealing with the various pests likely to be encountered. In October work was started by four of the special officers and in January the staff was supplemented by the addition of two of the permanent staff of the Agricultural Department.

By the end of the year 1,225 acres of Cocoa Farms were cleared and put in order. The progress was much slower than at first anticipated, but with the experience gained it is hoped that in future the work will proceed far quicker. It is very gratifying to record the absence of any kind of friction between the staff employed and the people which proves the latter's appreciation of Government's action in endeavouring to eradicate disease.

EUROPEAN PLANTATIONS.

11. *Abomposu Estates.*—This Plantation consists mainly of Cocoa which was in every way up to the average yield. During the year 65 acres were put into a thorough state of Sanitation.

Certain experiments were carried out in the methods of tapping both the Para and Funtumia variety of Rubber.

12. *Ofin River Rubber Estate.*—This Plantation was reopened during the year after five years' idleness. Sixty thousand trees were tapped and during 8 months produced 80,000 lbs of dry rubber which equals 2 lbs per tree per annum or 350 lbs per acre.

13. *Oil Palms.*—The establishment of plots of this crop on Plantation Lines is not popular with the Natives who consider it waste of labour when so many trees already exist in the Forest. However, it is hoped eventually the Farmer will appreciate the advice and encouragement given by both Political and Agricultural Officers in attempting to encourage this industry.

14. *Coffee.*—More interest has been shown in this crop and there has been quite a large demand from the Agricultural Department for seeds and plants.

Nine persons entered their names as candidates under the Bonus Scheme introduced in 1924, to encourage this Industry and 3 of the entrants were awarded £5 for establishing plots of one acre.

15. *Kola.*—The Crop would appear to have been slightly less than last year. Prices showed no change, the average being 3d. to 1/- per 100 nuts uncleaned, and 1/- to 1/6 cleaned.

16. *Rubber.*—The demand for this product developed into a small boom consequently there was great competition. Local prices were higher than they have been since 1918.

There would appear to be very little demand for lump rubber on the Market, consequently trial consignments of Funtumia Sheets were made and proved successful and the people are now being encouraged to prepare sheet rubber rather than lump.

17. *Foodstuffs.*—Supplies generally speaking were good all through the year throughout the whole of Ashanti. Prices compared favourably with those of previous years.

" Corn Smut " did not have the devastating effect which was feared and the later crop of corn was extra heavy, thus making up to some extent for the shortages on the early crop.

It is interesting to report that Rice Fields in the vicinity of Kumasi are steadily increasing both in number and extent.

The Dukusie Cattle Farm continued to be successfully worked and the numbers of the live-stock increased during the year.

VI.—FORESTRY.

18. Demarcation of Forest Reserves has been the most important work of the Department during the year.

The Demarcation of a chain of Reserves following the range of hills from Obosumani Hill on Eastern Ashanti boundary to the Mampong Scarp has been almost completed.

19. *North and South Fomang Su.*—(Approximately 24 square miles). Bye-laws were passed and *Gazetted* in September, 1925. A working plan was made for South Fomang Su, and an area of 1 square mile cut out for farming.

20.—*Boumfum Reserve.*—(Previously known as the Awam Su Reserve approximately 117 square miles). Preliminary demarcation completed.

21. *Ongwan Reserve.*—(Previously known as Nsuta Reserve). The preliminary demarcation was completed. Owing to extensive cultivation and to allow land for farming, this Reserve was split up into 3 areas of approximately ½ square mile, 6 square miles, and 11 square miles.

A rigid survey by the Survey Department was near completion at the end of the year.

22. *Ofin Head Waters Reserve.*—(Approximately 3 square miles). Bye-laws were passed and *Gazetted* in January, 1926, and an area was cut out for farming.

23. *Anum Su Reserve.*—Preliminary demarcation started in January, 1926.

24. *Mankrang Ofin Reserve.*—(Approximately 65 square miles). Chiefs have no power to pass Bye-laws, but have asked Government to administer until they can.

Areas were cut round villages for farming and people encouraged to plant timber trees with their food crops.

GOVERNMENT FOREST RESERVES.

25. *The Kumasi Firewood Reserve.*—(Approximately 110 acres). A working plan was made; area divided up into coupes (about 5 acres each) one of which is to be planted each year. A nursery for necessary seedlings was made. One coupe was cleared ready for planting.

26. *Prah Anum Government Forest Reserve.*—Administration was transferred to the Forest Officer in the Central Province of the Colony as it is more accessible from there.

27. *Timber.*—With the opening of the Accra Kumasi Railway a new field for extraction of timber for export was opened up. About 300-400 logs were extracted between Kumasi and Kwahu Prahsu and railed to Accra for export.

Very little was extracted from the west side of Ashanti *i.e.*, down the Ofin River.

GENERAL.

28. There has been very little opposition on the part of the Chiefs to the establishment of Reserves, but mainly through ignorance they are still inclined to devastate the Forest by clearing large areas and it is only through propaganda by the Political and Forest Officers that they are prevented from accomplishing their desire, consequently it is only natural they lack initiative in punishing their subjects for committing offences under the " Bye-Laws " unless brought before them by the Forest Officers.

AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE.

29. Twenty-eight students were in residence during the year of which 21 were Agriculturalists and 7 Foresters.

Six of the latter having finished their two years' course at the Training Centre were sent for a year to various Forest Officers for further instructions.

The progress on the whole was very satisfactory, the students showing keenness and the desire to understand thoroughly each branch of the subject they have studied. A good standard of discipline was maintained.

The equipment on charge has been largely augmented thereby enabling more useful experiments and demonstrations being made.

The Mutual Improvement Society met weekly and interesting discussions always followed the reading of a paper.

VII.—MINING INDUSTRY.

30. The amount of gold produced during the year under review was 89,878.89 ounces valued at £381,805 10s. 3d., as against 85,893.94 ounces valued at £364,877 for the previous year or an increase of 3,984.95 ounces for which the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, at Obuasi are mainly responsible.

The Dredging operations in the Offin River would appear to have been less productive than in previous years.

The average amount of labour employed in the Mining Industry was as follows:—

	Surface.	Underground.	Total.
Europeans	48	18	66
Africans	1,870	959	2,829

These figures show a negligible decrease compared with the previous year.

The Lyndhurst Deep Levels were engaged in erecting Plant which towards the end of the year was working and the gold produced proved entirely satisfactory.

No Mining Licences were issued during the year, but six licences to prospect were issued.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

31. Fourteen Ordinances were enacted during the year.

The more important were :—

No. 3 *of* 1925—" The Ashanti Administration Second Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925 ".

This Ordinance adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti the following :—

" The Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1924 ".

" The Petroleum Ordinance, 1924 ".

" The Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1925 ".

" The Aliens Ordinance, 1925 ".

No. 4 *of* 1925—" The Ashanti Administration Third Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925 ".

This Ordinance adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti. " The Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1925 " and all regulations under section 30.

No. 5 *of* 1925—" The Kumasi Public Health Board Ordinance, 1925 ".

No. 6 *of* 1925—" The Police Magistrate, Kumasi (Extension of Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1925 ".

No. 7 *of* 1925—" The Ashanti Administration Fourth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925 ". This adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applicable to Ashanti, " The Cinematograph Exhibitions Ordinance, 1925 ", and all regulations made thereunder.

No. 8 *of* 1925—" The Ashanti Administration Fifth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925 ". This Ordinance declares further and more particularly that the ownership of all land within the limits of the town of Kumasi are vested absolutely in His Majesty the King.

No. 10 *of* 1925—" The Ashanti Administration Sixth Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925 ". This Ordinance adds " The Mining Health Areas Ordinance, 1925 " to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti.

No. 12 *of* 1925—" The Ashanti Administration Seventh Further Amendment Ordinance, 1925 ". This Ordinance makes provision with respect to Patents and Trade Marks registered in the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 1 *of* 1926—" The Ashanti Administration Amendment Ordinance, 1926 ". This Ordinance adds to the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony to be applied to Ashanti :—

" The Ascertainment of Boundaries Ordinance, No. 6 of 1925".

" The Education Ordinance, 1925 ", and

" The Births, Deaths, and Burials Ordinance, 1925 ".

No. 2 *of* 1926—" The Ashanti Administration Further Amendment Ordinance, 1926 ". By deleting from the list of Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applicable to Ashanti, " The Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Ordinance—No 2 of 1919.

No. 3 *of* 1926—" The Ashanti Concessions Amendment Ordinance, 1926 "; restricting the exercise of rights with respect to timber or trees.

The following Rules were made during the year :—

No. 3 of 1925—Licence for the sale of Palm Wine and/or Native brewed beer.

No. 4 of 1925—Revoking certain Rules with respect to Regulation of Towns.

No. 5 of 1925.—Bekwai Market Rules.

No. 6 of 1925.—Forest Reserves.

No. 7 of 1925.—Revoking the Timber Protection Rules (Ashanti) 1921 made on the 24th day of October, 1921 (Ashanti Rule No. 6 of 1921).

No. 8 of 1925.—Bringing the Town of Sunyani under the Rules for the Keeping of Dogs in Ashanti.

No. 1 of 1926.—Revoking Rules with respect to appeals from Native Tribunals, pp. 33-34 Ashanti Laws.

No. 3 of 1926.—Revoking Rules with respect to Registration of Births and Deaths, pp. 84-85 Ashanti Laws.

Various Orders, Proclamations and Regulations were also made by the Governor and Chief Commissioner—the most important of these being :—

No. 3 of 1925.—Order by the Governor appointing Licensing Officers and a Certifying Officer for Ashanti under the Motor Traffic Ordinance, 1925.

No. 6 of 1925.—Order by the Governor appointing the 1st day of April, 1926 as the date upon which the Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1925 shall come into force in Ashanti.

No. 7 of 1925.—Order by the Governor appointing a Principal Immigration Officer and Assistant Immigration Officers under the Immigration Restriction Ordinance.

No. 4 of 1925.—Order by the Chief Commissioner under the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance suspending Kobina Wusu, Omanhene of Ejisu.

No. 1 of 1926.—Order by the Chief Commissioner under the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance suspending Kwame Poku, Omanhene of Bekwai.

No. 12 of 1925.—Order by the Governor declaring certain Towns and places in Ashanti to be Towns for the purposes of Book II. of the Criminal Code as applied to Ashanti.

No. 2 of 1925.—Proclamation by the Governor extending the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement,) Ordinance, 1921, as applied to Ashanti to Maintenance Orders made by the Courts within New South Wales.

No. 4 of 1925.—Regulation by the Governor's Deputy under the Sales by Auction Ordinance, 1922, as applied to Ashanti, requiring the declaration of the length of unexpired term of lease in the case of sale by auction of a leasehold property.

IX.—JUDICIAL.

32. The number of Cases tried in the Courts of Ashanti during the year under review was as follows :—

	Civil.	Criminal.	
The Chief Commissioner ..	29	—	
The Circuit Judge	51	79	
The Police Magistrate, Kumasi	1,048	3,055	(1543)
Eastern Province.			
Provincial Commissioner ..	28	3	
District Commissioner, Kumasi	150	4,647	(3,977)
District Commissioner, Obuasi	400	1,042	(444)
District Commissioner, Bekwai	243	984	(512)
District Commissioner, Juaso	33	185	
District Commissioner, Ejura (Mampong District) ..	74	183	(137)
Western Province.			
Provincial Commissioner ..	1	2	
District Commissioner, Sunyani	46	146	(40)
District Commissioner, Goaso	3	23	
District Commissioner, Kintampo	19	250	(136)
District Commissioner, Wenchi	8	85	(16)
	2,133	10,684	

Figures in brackets denote Offences against Sanitary Laws.

The total figures show a decrease of 28 Civil cases and an increase of 6,798 Criminal cases as compared with the previous year. The increase is due to the fact that last year the Police Magistrate omitted to show in his return Sanitary cases which for the last 9 months of the year under review were heard in the District Commissioner's Court.

With regard to the cases in the respective Courts :—

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

33. The cases heard show an increase of 9. Of the total the majority were Appeals and referred to the vexed question of "Ownership of Land."

CIRCUIT JUDGE'S COURT.

34. *Criminal Cases.*—The cases heard show an increase of eight as compared with 1924-25 and an increase of 37 as compared with 1923-24. A steady increase in charges both of manslaughter and house breaking is noticeable.

Civil Cases.—There was an increase of 16 cases in comparison with the previous year and in addition, 8 appeals from the other Courts of which 4 were upheld, 1 reversed and 3 were remitted to the Court below for retrial.

Estates.—There were 10 Letters of Administration and 2 Probates granted during the year showing an increase of 2 over the grants of 1924-25.

Sittings.—The Court sat 97 days on Criminal cases and 107 days on Civil business, and Assizes were held thrice at Sunyani and once at Ejura, Bekwai, Obuasi, Kintampo and Wenchi.

POLICE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

35. Owing to the increase of cases in this Court it was considered advisable for the District Commissioner, Kumasi District, to take all Criminal cases emanating from his District exclusive of the Town of Kumasi.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' COURTS.

36. *Eastern Province.*—Criminal Statistics call for no special comments whereas the Civil cases show an increase of 13% in comparison with last year.

37. *Western Province.*—The Criminal cases showed an increase of 252 and Civil cases a decrease of 60 in comparison with 1924-25.

38. *Inquests.*—Eighty-four Inquests were held during the year as compared with 70 for the previous year.

GENERAL.

39. In all Courts the main increase in the Civil cases is due to actions for the recovery of monies either lent or advanced for the purchase of produce. In this connection it is interesting to record the willingness of people to give security even to mortgaging their own houses, but it is obvious they do not realize this responsibility until they are suddenly brought before the Court on a writ of Ca. Sa. or Fi. Fa.

There was no serious outbreak of crime; the majority of cases was for the contravention of the Sanitary laws and petty offences such as assaults and thefts. Prosecutions for offences under the Motor Ordinance showed a decrease in comparison with 1924-25.

40. Fees and Fines amounted to £11,953 as compared with £8,828 in the previous year.

The increase is probably due to the Police Magistrate being given extended jurisdiction under Ordinance No. 6 of 1925, and to offences against the Motor Traffic Ordinance.

X.—CONCESSIONS.

41. No Certificates of Validity for Concessions were applied for and none were cancelled.

XI.—POLICE.

42. The strength of the Police in Ashanti on the 1st of April 1925 was 245 and at the end of the year 239.

Detachments of the force were stationed at Kumasi, Obuasi, Bekwai, Mampong, Ejisu, Sunyani, Wenchi, Goaso and Kintampo.

The following table shows the statistics of cases dealt with during the past two years:—

	No. of Offences reported to Police.	No. of Police Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.
1924–25 ..	3,006	2,531	2,021
1925–26 ..	3,515	2,792	2,360

The work of the Police has been in every way very satisfactory.

XII.—PRISONS.

43. For the greater portion of the year Government Prisons were established at Kumasi, Obuasi, Juaso, Kintampo, Sunyani and Ejura. In February Ejura was closed and the staff, prisoners, records, etc., were transferred to Kumasi.

The total number of Convict Prisoners admitted during the year under review was 1,252 as compared with 1,006 for the previous year, while the total number of debtor prisoners admitted was 233 as compared with 136 in 1924-1925.

Female prisoners are confined in the Kumasi Prison only. There is very little crime amongst women—the proportion of women convicts to men convicts being .43%.

The construction of the re-enforced concrete blocks of cells was continued at Kumasi and at the end of the year first floor level was reached. When completed the cells will accommodate 108 prisoners. The whole of the construction is being undertaken by prison labour.

44. The Prison Farm at Kumasi was extended. Foodstuffs produced effected a large saving in the costs of prisoners' rations, Corn, Cassada, Plantain, etc., to the value of £550 being grown and used as food. In addition large consignments of corn were despatched to the prisons at Sekondi, Tarkwa and Obuasi.

Long sentence prisoners, as usual, were employed on Carpentry, Masonry, Brick Making and Laundry work.

The chief earnings from the Prison Industries at Kumasi amounted to £922. The health and discipline in all the prisons have been entirely satisfactory.

XIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

45. The Medical Staff consisted of an Assistant Director of Medical Services, two Medical Officers at Kumasi, and Medical Officers stationed at Sunyani, at Kintampo and Bekwai. In addition the Medical Officer employed by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd., by arrangement with Government attends to all Government Officials at Obuasi.

There is a European Hospital at Kumasi where on an average 3 European Sisters are in attendance.

There are 4 Government Hospitals for Africans and one Contagious Diseases Hospital which is situated in Kumasi.

The average number of Europeans stationed in Ashanti during the year was 638.

There were three deaths and 22 cases of invaliding of Europeans during the year under review.

The prevailing diseases amongst Europeans were Malaria, Dysentry and disorders generally of the digestive system.

The invaliding rate amongst officials was 6.69% and amongst the non-officials 1.28% whereas the death rate was .42% and .43% respectively.

These figures compare with one death and sixteen cases of invaliding for the previous year. The admissions to the European Hospital at Kumasi numbered 140 as compared with 133 for the previous year and 113 during 1923-24.

The admissions to the Kumasi African Hospital numbered 2,400. Unfortunately statistics for the other Hospitals are not available. The more prevalent diseases dealt with were Yaws, Fevers, Bronchitis, minor intestinal disorders and Ulcers.

In Kumasi alone 282 post mortems were held. These figures show an increase of 43 in comparison with the previous year.

XIV.—SANITATION.

46. The permanent staff on the strength of this department is as follows:—

European Staff:—
1 Senior Sanitary Officer.
1 Medical Officer of Health.
6 Superintending Sanitary Inspectors.

African Staff:—
1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.

47 Sanitary Inspectors, Vaccinators, and Village Overseers.

DISEASES.

47. *Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis*—two deaths from this disease were recorded at Kintampo.

Anthrax—five deaths of an enteric form of this disease were recorded from Kumasi.

Blackwater-Fever.—One European death occurred in Wenchi; two cases were reported from Kintampo District both of whom recovered.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.—An isolated epidemic involving thirteen cases, *all of whom died*, occurred at Ejura in the Mampong District of the Eastern Province during January. One fatal case was reported from Sunyani in the Western Province about the same time.

Smallpox.—Commencing about June an epidemic outbreak of smallpox occurred in the Wenchi District of the Western Province and the borders of the Eastern Province contiguous with the former, involving about 600 cases with 37 deaths. This was found to be due to the practice of arm-to-arm inoculation by the Ashantis in consequence of the sporadic cases occurring during the previous year.

Smaller outbreaks occurred in the Kintampo District and on the Northern borders of the Eastern Province. Some were of the inoculation type, but the majority were contacts. Sporadic cases occurred down the trade routes from the North.

The following statistics show the number of vaccinations during the year as compared with the two previous years :—

	1923–24.	1924–25.	1925–26.
Number Vaccinated ..	15,553 ..	20,183 ..	178,263
Successful	7,608 ..	11,829 ..	62,185
Unknown	7,945 ..	9,354 ..	116,078

No cases of Cholera, Plague or Yellow Fever were reported.

48. *Village Planning.*—A somewhat increased staff of Village Overseers being available, a certain degree of enthusiasm has been shown by a proportion of the Chiefs on the main roads for the rebuilding of their towns. By this means sanitary improvements are being introduced into the outlying villages and an elementary regularity in the alignment and more hygienic construction of houses is being practised.

The value of hygiene and sanitation appears to have become more widely spread owing to the increased staff, and in consequence of the various outbreaks of epidemic disease as well as by the greater facilities afforded for transport. The practical lessons will doubtless require constant reiteration before any general advance can be noted.

49. *Sanitary Improvements.*—A definite programme of construction designed to improve the water supplies, slaughtering of cattle and providing of facilities for the disposal of excreta and rubbish has been followed, and full advantage has been taken by most of the Towns affected by these improvements.

50. The sanitation of Obuasi is controlled by a Sanitary Committee composed of Government and Mine's representatives.

51. The revenue mostly derived by small rents charged on Houses, Market Fees, etc., amounted to £5,204 and the expenditure to £4,037.

The committee are to be congratulated upon the manner in which they have prepared and are carrying out a progressive scheme by which the town will eventually be very much improved.

52. *Sanitation of Kumasi.*—The old Sanitary Committee ceased to function on the 20th June, when the New Kumasi Public Health Board came into existence.

The following were the most important diseases reported during the year under review :—

53. *Diseases.*—Chickenpox was the only disease noted to have occurred in epidemic form and that was centred largely about the prison population.

No Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Cholera, Plague or Yellow Fever occurred in Kumasi during the year.

Five deaths from Anthrax probably introduced from outside were noted.

Several cases of smallpox were treated at the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

Tuberculosis in its various forms would appear to be on the increase, 11.1% of the total deaths being recorded from this cause. Malarial infections continue to cause considerable illness amongst the inhabitants although definite figures are not available. The one European death during the year had Malaria as a contributory factor.

54. *Statistical.*—The population figures are rather indefinite.

Deaths are recorded as 428 compared with 478 for the year 1924-25, respiratory diseases being the largest systemic cause. 45 infant deaths are recorded as compared with 34 during 1924-25. The largest number of deaths occurred during the month of March. A very close check has been kept on the causes of uncertified deaths, 182 post mortem examinations having been made.

Births registered were 581 compared with a total of 439 for the previous year.

55. *Water Supply.*—The marked shortage of Water noted during the dry season of 1924-25 was not as noticeable during the past year, owing to the greater rainfall. No change can be noted in the quality of the water supply. Eight new concrete wells and a 50,000 gallons reserve tank have been constructed to augment the supply. The need for a pipe-borne supply is evident from the aspect of prevention of disease.

56. *Public Slaughter House.*—Animals killed for meat supply :—

	1924–25.	1925–26.	Daily Average
Cattle	1,834	1,540	4.2
Sheep	1,925	2,558	7.0
Goats	2,556	3,833	10.4
Pigs	345	531	1.4

57. The sum of £416 was collected from this source as compared with £489 for the previous year.

58. *Markets.*—Seven new sheds have been added to the Central Market. The meat market has been moved to this area and fills one of the smaller sheds until a more suitable fly-proof structure can be built as provided in the 1926-27 Estimates.

59. *Sanitary Work.*—A monthly average of 181.2 acres of grass and bush was cut and burnt.

83,003 house to house inspections were made. 5,302 prosecutions for sanitary offences were made during the year and fines amounting to £1,608 were collected as compared with the respective figures of 5,240 and £1,817 for 1924-25.

21,083 Lineal yards of ditches were cleaned.
35,499 Lineal yards of ditches were dug and graded.

60. *Public Cemeteries.*—The Public and Chiefs' Cemeteries in Ashanti were generally speaking kept in good condition.

XV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

61. The rainfall recorded at Kumasi during the financial year as compared with last year was as follows:—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
April	4.47	5.28
May	3.11	7.03
June	5.99	7.43
July	6.76	6.77
August	0.39	7.86
September	6.77	6.39
October	6.47	6.43
November	3.45	6.27
December	2.66	0.14
January (1926)	0.06	0.65
February	1.11	3.14
March	7.67	5.16
	48.91	62.55

The rainfall for the year under review was approximately 7 inches above the average, the most noticeable feature being the fact that there was no " break " during the month of August.

The rainfall at other stations in Ashanti was :—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
Juaso	53.74	58.80
Sunyani	58.15	61.67
Kintampo	59.28	48.44
Obuasi	65.26	54.52

XVI.—EDUCATION.

62. Education as in former years has been conducted by the Government and the Missionary Societies.

There are four Primary Government Schools, 29 Assisted and 155 Non-Assisted Mission Schools. In addition to the above there is a Government Junior Trade School at Mampong, Agricultural and Forestry Training Centre and the Wesleyan Training Centre at Kumasi.

63. The following table gives the number of Government and Assisted Schools, their enrolment and average attendance :—

Description of School.	Number of Schools.	Enrolments.	Average Daily Attendance.
A.M.E. Zion Mission	1	71	55
English Church Mission ..	2	340	306
Roman Catholic Mission ..	5	728	642
Scottish Mission	16	1,140	1,052
Wesleyan Mission	5	884	758
Total Assisted Schools ..	29	3,163	2,813
Government	4	803	740
Schools	33	3,966	3,553

The total enrolment exceeds that of the previous year by 142. This increase would have been much greater had there been the required accommodation available.

The difficulty experienced by the Missions in obtaining the services of certified teachers in order to enable the Schools to comply with the conditions on which a grant depends, chiefly accounts for the small number of Assisted Schools.

There has been an increase of 53 in the number of girls attending the Government Assisted Schools, the total number being 506 or 12.7% of the total enrolment of Boys and Girls.

Approximately 50% of the children attending the schools situated in the large commercial centres are Ashantis. At outstation schools the percentage is far higher and at small Mission schools the children are, with few exceptions, natives of Ashanti.

64. The Statistics of the Unassisted Schools are as follows :—

Description of School.	Number of Schools.	Enrolment.
A.M.E. Zion Mission	15	214
English Church Mission	3	95
Roman Catholic Mission	12	374
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	9	266
Scottish Mission	41	1,094
Wesleyan Mission	75	1,561
Total	155	3,604

The enrolment has increased by 142 in comparison with 1924-25. The average daily attendance is 3,551 or nearly 90% of the enrolment.

The total number of children enrolled for the year under review was 7,570 or an increase of 361 in comparison with 1924-25.

The education provided at these schools is of course elementary, but when the Government Senior Boys' School at Kumasi (which was started towards the end of the year) is completed, a higher education will be possible.

65. *Female Education.*—The Government Girls' School proved satisfactory although the accommodation was very limited ; this will be rectified when the New Boys' School is completed, as further accommodation will then be available for the girls in the present Boys' Schools.

66. The sum collected as school fees was £1,355 as compared with £1,115 for the previous year. This increase and the increase in the number of children enrolled is an indication of how anxious the people of Ashanti are to have their children educated.

Government grants-in-aid amounted to £3,870, an increase of £245 over last year.

67. *Wesley College.*—There were 98 students in residence of whom 14 were being trained as Catechists and 84 as Teachers. The management of the college is largely in the hands of the students, and this system has been found to work very satisfactorily.

68. *Junior Trade School, Mampong.*—It is gratifying to be able to report that progress was the motto for the year 1925-26. There were 77 pupils in residence and with two exceptions the boys showed extreme keenness to learn the various trades they have been allotted. A new Dormitory, Instruction House and various other small buildings were constructed of burnt brick during the year. The boys supply all the labour both skilled and unskilled.

69. Several acres of land are under cultivation of food stuffs from which the school's requirements are practically supplied.

XVII.—RELIGION.

70. The number of Missionary bodies remained the same as hitherto, *viz* :—

(a) The English Church Mission was well sustained during the year. Several new stations were opened.
St. Augustine's Theological College completed its first year's work which was in every way satisfactory.
A new cement brick Church at Jachi was near completion at the end of the year.

(b) The Ashanti Scottish Mission continued to do good work. The strength of the European staff was increased by the return of four male and two female Missionaries from Basel who prior to the Great War had been stationed in Ashanti.

(c) The Ashanti Wesleyan Mission has a European staff of seven Missionaries and eight African Ministers and a very large church membership.

(d) The A.M.E. Zion. The Minister-in-charge reports that further progress is greatly handicapped by want of funds.

(e) The Seventh Day Adventists have headquarters at Agona and a few schools in other towns.

(f) The Roman Catholic Mission has three European Priests and twenty African Catechists. The Revd. Father reports that his Church numbers 7,000 baptized and 6,000 catechumens.

70*a*. The relations between the christian and the non-christian Africans generally have been good and christianity appears to be on the increase.

The Missionary bodies as a whole are to be congratulated on the very valuable work they are performing.

XVIII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

72. The Provincial Commissioners report that the relationship between the chiefs and Government is excellent.

Unfortunately one is unable to report such a satisfactory condition between many of the Chiefs and the people.

The main cause of complaint is the endeavour to obtain money from the young men through taxation for the alleged debts of the Stool, etc.

There were three destoolments and three resignations of chiefs during the year under review.

The chiefs and the people are gradually realizing the value of land and in consequence litigation as to ownership is on the increase.

There was only one riot of any consequence which happily was short-lived through the prompt action taken by the Commissioner of the District.

Doubtless the people of Ashanti are becoming more prosperous yearly and are beginning to realize the importance of altering their ways by living under better and more sanitary conditions; this is evidenced by the number of better and more spacious houses which are being built.

73. It is gratifying to report that some stools which formerly were heavily in debt are once more solvent, thereby being in a position to restart with what one might call a " fresh lease of life." In this connection, it may be interesting to report that in two years the " Wenchi Stool Trust," which is administered by the District Commissioner, has practically repaid a stool debt of £600 in addition to paying for the education of its young Omanhene at St. Cyprian's School.

NATIVE JURISDICTION ORDINANCE.

74. The working of this Ordinance introduced in August, 1924, shows a steady improvement but is not yet altogether satisfactory mainly owing to the difficulty of the chiefs in engaging reliable Registrars. In this connection a Commissioner writes as follows :—

> " It is in the matter of legal procedure that Native Tribu-
> " nals are to be found somewhat wanting; as however, this
> " is a matter which depends almost entirely on the ability
> " of the Stool Clerk, it is not fair to judge the success of a
> " Tribunal on such grounds. In the administration of justice,
> " which is the most important function of the Tribunal, it
> " may be said that a very fair measure of success has been
> " achieved ".

To overcome the difficulty as outlined, courses of instruction for Tribunal Registrars are continually being held by District Commissioners.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION POLICE.

75. Great progress has been made in bringing this force up to a standard of efficiency. Drill courses are held periodically at each District headquarters under an instructor from the Police force.

76. In September last, a competition in Police duties was held in Kumasi, when 20 teams from various divisions competed for a cup presented by a Commissioner.

77. The following cases were heard by the Native Tribunals :—

	Criminal.	*Civil.*
Kumasi District	2	12
Juaso "	261	443
Mampong "	92	302
Obuasi "	225	450
Sunyani "	118	172
Wenchi "	72	68
Kintampo "	46	80
Goaso "	96	37
Total	912	1,564

78. Appeals from Native Tribunals to District Commissioners' Courts :—

	Heard.	Upheld.	Reversed.
Kumasi District	1	1	—
Mampong "	15	8	7
Juaso "	14	9	5
Obuasi "	10	5	5
Sunyani "	6	1	5
Wenchi "	9	7	2
Kintampo "	3	2	1
Goaso "	2	—	2*

* Includes 1 case sent back to Tribunal for rehearing.

XIX.—ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

79. The Anthropologist (Captain R. S. Rattray, M.B.E.) reports that the period under review has been occupied in uninterrupted field work investigating Ashanti Law and Constitution.

Captain Rattray writes :—

"Ashanti Law is in my opinion based and built upon "Ashanti religious beliefs. To have attempted the investi- "gation of the former without a proper understanding of "the latter would have added little new to the very meagre "and unsatisfactory understanding of Akan Customary Law "which we now possess.

"The religion of these people has now been examined "in considerable detail; first in "*Ashanti,*" published in "1923, and secondly in "*Religion and Art in Ashanti*" "(2 Vols.) published in 1926. The work that has been done "during the past year on Primitive Law will thus be found "to link up with all that has gone before.

"It is remarkable, considering the importance of the "subject, how scanty and unsatisfactory our information is "concerning it. The source of information has hitherto "practically been confined to an interesting book by Sarbah,* "in which however he ignored or was ignorant of the "influences which had moulded the laws and constitution of "his race, *i.e.*, the religious factor.

"Miss Kingsley also had written some chapters on African "Law †, which display her usual intuition and sympathy. "These works practically exhaust the literature of any value "available on the subject.

"The work undertaken during the past year will thus, it "is hoped, help to fill this gap in our knowledge. The "following are the headings under which these researches "have been grouped :—

(*a*) Ashanti Constitutional History.
(*b*) Ashanti Law.
(*c*) Ashanti History.
(*d*) Ashanti Folk Lore.

"Under A, the Constitutional History of the greater Stools "has been examined, including those of Mampon, Bekwai, "Assumegya, Kokofu, Juaben, Kumawu, Wam, Banda, "Tekiman, Nkoranza. The information collected has in "each case been obtained on the spot. Investigations under "this heading include the constitutional usage regarding "Enstoolment, Destoolment, Succession, Genealogies, "Sources of revenue, Taxation and many other subjects about "which our information is scanty, erroneous, or nil.

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* Fanti Customary Laws.
† West African Studies.

" In Section B (Laws), the following are a few of the " headings (in alphabetical order) under which investigations " have been made. Children; Crimes; Evidence; Family; " Kinship; Usage; Labour; Land; Law (sacred, civil, " criminal); Legislation; Marriage; Morals; Murder; Nature " of Primitive Law; Oaths; Property; Procedure; Rank; " Revenues; Sections of Primitive Law; Sexual offences; " Stealing; Slaves; Succession; Suretyship; Taboos; Ter- " ritorial and Geographical Divisions; Totemism; War; etc., " etc.

" Under Section C. an attempt has been made to obtain " the tribal history of each Division. The whole of such " detailed records of historical events when pieced together " will serve to check one another, and should give us a " fairly accurate account of the history of Ashanti for the " past 300 years, as known to the Ashanti elders themselves. " A knowledge of the historical past of various Divisions " should be an invaluable aid to Political Officers in helping " them to appraise the probable trend of local politics and " inter-Divisional disputes.

" (d) *Ashanti Folk-Lore.*—No serious attempt has ever, " I believe, been made by anyone familiar with the language " to make a collection of the genuine old Ashanti Folk-Lore " tales.* This I have endeavoured to do. The stories were " taken down by me in the vernacular. These tales should " be a mine of psychological, and philological information. " Many of the stories are extraordinarily clever, and I ven- " ture to predict will some day take their place with *Grimms* " and *Hans Anderson* in the nurseries of Europe. Almost " every Ashanti story contains a song, in the chorus of which " all the listeners join. These songs have been recorded on " the phonograph for examination by musical experts.

" *Photographs.*—Some 110 new photographs have been " taken and developed, chiefly of types of the people with " whom I have been working. These will be included in " the next publication of the Department, and will at some " future date serve as an interesting portrait gallery of " Ashanti celebrities at this period of their history. In ad- " dition to the work outlined above I have been engaged in " seeing the new vols. (*Religion and Art in Ashanti*) through " the Press.

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* I do not exclude collections made by the Basel Missionaries or a work by H. Barker " West African Folk Tales ".

XX.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

80. The Department undertook and completed far more work during the period under review than in any previous year.

81. The total expenditure in Ashanti amounted to £204,707 in comparison with £91,326 the previous year.

82. The value of the stores received amounted to £72,261 and the total issues to £71,844. Included in the issues were the following :—

26,032 barrels of cement.

3,184 drums coal tar.

10,678 corrugated iron sheets.

68,577 gallons petrol.

83. The Ashanti European staff in supervision travelled no less than 103,603 miles.

84. *Labour.*—In spite of the very large programme of work the condition of labour in so far as Kumasi was concerned was good but some difficulty was experienced at outstations in engaging Artisans. Unskilled labour was always obtainable anywhere. A census of labour employed was taken in December and showed a total of 5,879 which included labourers employed by contractors on Government work.

85. Government bungalows, plant and machinery were kept in good order and repair.

86. New works consisted of building bungalows, police barracks, court house and offices and numerous sanitary structures, also several additions to both the European and Native Hospitals at Kumasi.

XXI.—KUMASI PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD.

87. The Board was inaugurated on the 1st of July, 1926, in accordance with the " Kumasi Public Health Board " Ordinance No. 5 of 1925.

The Board consists of 10 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the Chief Commissioner and 5 nominated—two by the Kumasi Chamber of Commerce, two by the Kumasi Council of Chiefs and one by the Chief Commissioner.

A very large cocoa store and yard were bought and converted into necessary offices, stores, etc., at a total cost of £6,250.

The Board meets three times a month when matters of importance and finance are discussed.

88. The permanent staff is as follows :—

1 Town Engineer.
2 Assistant Engineers.
1 European Foreman.
2 European Building Inspectors.
16 African Clerks.

89. The main source of revenue is that of ground rents. In the commercial centre plots are leased at £1 per foot frontage and old leases are renewed at an increased rate of 20% on the original rent.

90. In the beginning there was a slight opposition on the part of the Africans against the introduction of new forms of taxation such as the Property Transfer Duty Tax, but it is gratifying to report that contentment is restored, the people realizing the improvement to the town is for their own benefit.

91. The town has been divided into districts and re-assessed as follows :—

A. 1st Class Business area.
B. 1st Class Residential sites for European traders.
C. 1st Class Residential sites for Government Officials.
D. 1st Class Residential sites for Africans.
E. 2nd Class Residential sites for Africans.

The rents charged per plot of the above are :—

A. £1 per foot frontage with a depth of 100 feet.
B. £10 per plot of 300 feet by 100 feet.
C. Being Government no rent is charged.
D. £5 per plot of 50 ft. x 50 ft.
E. 2/- per foot frontage with a depth of 60 ft.

92. Amongst the most important Works carried out were :—

The completion of the *New Central Market*. It consists of 17 sheds or 790 stalls.

Slaughter House.—This building measures 113 feet by 31 feet and provides cooling and dressing rooms and offices, etc.

Lorry Park.—Measuring 500 feet x 50 feet was ⅔ completed.

Sanitary Structures.—Many latrines, dustbins, and incinerators of latest type were constructed.

Wells.—Nine new wells were sunk and the surface aproned with cement. A start to chlorinate four of these was made. All old wells were improved and covered.

Prince of Wales Park.—The filling in of this site has been held up owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable place to which to remove the railway pumps.

Cemeteries.—There are 3 cemeteries actually in use, all have been laid out and areas allotted to the various denominations and pagans.

Surface Drainage.—A considerable amount of work was done by the Board's staff in drawing up a progressive scheme. It is calculated that by the end of next year the two main drains will be completed.

BOARD'S FINANCE.

93. The total revenue of the Board amounted to £19,461 and expenditure to £12,206 thereby showing a profit of £7,255 for nine months working.

94. The work undertaken and such a satisfactory balance sheet reflect great credit on the Board and its staff.

XXII.—ROADS.

95. The mileage of motor and motorable roads (exclusive of town roads) in Ashanti at the end of the year was 1,019 miles of which the Public Works Department maintained 209 and the Political Officers 810 miles. These roads were maintained in such good order that none of them had to be closed for repairs during the cocoa season.

96. The cost of maintaining the Public Works Department quota amounted to £97 8s. 0d., per mile.

97. The Tarmetting programme continued and at the end of the year the position was as follows:—

Length reconstructed Metalled and Tarmet complete	48	Miles.
Length reconstructed and Metalled	18¾	"
Length reconstructed formation only ..	9½	"
Reinforced Concrete Bridges completed ..	17	"
Concrete Culverts Constructed	137	"

98. In addition to the bridges enumerated above, the Public Works Department built 8 other concrete bridges of spans varying from 10 to 30 feet on other roads.

99. The actual new mileage of road constructed by the Political Officers was 35, and 40 miles were taken over by the Public Works Department for conversion to Tarmet.

100. Political Officers report that the Ashanti people are only too willing to construct new Roads and so open up the country, but when completed their willingness appears to die when they are called upon to maintain the same.

101. The following table shows the actual amounts spent throughout Ashanti on construction of new roads, Maintenance of existing roads and the conversion to tarmet.

Construction	£23,351
Maintenance	23,666
Tarmetting	87,704
	£134,721

102. The work of replacing wooden bridges and culverts by cement was continued on all roads under the Political Officers which enabled heavier lorries to be used.

103. The chiefs and people are to be congratulated on their splendid work in keeping open lines of communication practically throughout the whole of Ashanti. In this connection it might be of interest to report that there are recognised lorry routes which enable passengers to be conveyed as far south as the coast and 300 miles north at an average cost of 1½d. a mile.

XXIII.—KUMASI ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

104. *Kumasi Supply.*—A draft scheme for an Electric Light and Power Supply for Kumasi put forward by the Electrical Branch, Public Works Department, was approved by the Secretary of State in July, 1925. Details of the scheme were sent home in August and as these were approved by cablegram, all necessary drawing and indents were prepared and sent forward to the Crown Agents for the Colonies by the middle of December, 1925.

The power plant is to consist of three National Vertical Cold Starting Crude Oil Engines, and three-wire electric generators; the cooling arrangement being effected by a Heenan Mechanical Cooler. An aerial system of distribution is to be adopted.

The Electrical Engineer arrived in Kumasi in February, and the staff for the work has been organised.

At the end of the financial year the offices, garage and site for Power Station were completed. First consignments of material have been received so that installation on a large scale should commence by the beginning of the financial year 1926-27.

It is hoped to have the supply open for Government requirements, officials' bungalows and the general public by the end of March, 1927.

XXIV.—MOTOR TRANSPORT.

105. The Government fleet of vehicles at Kumasi on the 31st March was one touring car and 9 lorries, 3 of which were old 7 cwt. Fords converted into Tonners.

The Department is run on Commercial lines and for the year under review showed a net profit of £2,725.

The total mileage covered by the vehicles of the fleet was 129,236 as compared with 121,236 in 1924-25.

The following table shows the tonnage and number of loads carried during the year :—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
Officers' loads	10,441	13,018
Government loads	19,961	37,239
Weight of Officers' loads ..	261	351
Weight of Government loads ..	1,983	3,922
Total Weight conveyed ..	2,244	4,273

Vehicles had to be hired from contractors as heretofore and £14,809 was paid for this service as compared with £5,125 for the previous year. The large increase was mainly incurred in bringing the various chiefs and their followers from the Northern Territories and outlying villages of Ashanti to Kumasi during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

In addition to administering his department the Transport Officer carried out driving and efficiency tests and issued 243 Competency Certificates and tested 464 governors on commercial lorries.

The staff of this department is to be congratulated on a satisfactory year's work.

XXV.—RAILWAYS.

106. Taking everything into consideration, the service during the year was maintained satisfactorily.

The use of the heavier engines has greatly added to the quick despatch of produce to the port of Sekondi and in consequence is much appreciated by the merchants.

The outward local traffic from all stations in Ashanti was 64,785 tons as compared with 58,374 tons during 1924-25.

Cocoa railed amounted to 56,524 tons as compared with 54,935 tons and Kola 2,469 tons as against 2,736 tons in 1924-25.

The inward traffic to Ashanti amounted to 41,623 tons as compared with 35,472 tons for the previous year. These goods chiefly consisted of building materials, machinery, cotton goods and tinned provisions.

The Railway receipts were as follows:—

	1924–25.	1925–26.
For goods exported from Ashanti	£237,280	£244,932
For goods imported into Ashanti	110,477	160,777
For Coaching Traffic	57,916	54,080
	£405,673	£459,789

XXVI.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.

POSTAL.

107. *Local.*—Letters posted showed an increase of 17% and letters for delivery an increase of 65% in comparison with last year.

Overseas.—Letters posted for abroad showed an increase of 10% and letters from abroad for delivery an increase of 35% in comparison with 1924-25.

Parcels.—Parcels both received and for despatch also showed a larger increase over last year.

Money Orders—issued during the year amounted to £40,589 and Money Orders paid to £10,066. Both these amounts show a substantial increase in comparison with 1924-25.

Telegraphs.—Telegrams forwarded and received increased by over twenty thousand or 17% over last year's table. Telegrams dealt with in Kumasi Office alone averaged 12,000 monthly.

Telephones.—In order to deal with the increased traffic, a new trunk line panel had to be installed in the Kumasi Exchange.

A new telephone exchange was opened at Obuasi, seventeen new subscribers were connected to the Kumasi, Bekwai and Obuasi exchanges.

Post Office Savings Bank.—The following amounts were paid into or withdrawn from the various Post Office Banks in Ashanti as compared with the previous year :—

	Deposits.	Withdrawals.
1924–25	£3,565	£3,417
1925–26	£4,351	£3,599

It is pleasing to observe that the amount deposited was greater than the amount withdrawn thereby proving a tendency towards Thrift.

GENERAL.

108. All services were most satisfactorily maintained and reflect the greatest credit on the staff concerned.

There were the following at the end of the year under review :—

8	Post and Telegraph Offices.
13	Postal Agents.
13	Non Telegraph Postal Agents.
Total 34	

XXVII.—SURVEYS.

109. No topographical work in the field was undertaken during the year under review.

The Provincial Surveyor and his staff completed all the sheets at present required of the Kumasi Town Survey.

In addition 4 small townships were surveyed, 9 various surveys dealing with acquisitions and 20 surveys of land the ownership of which was in dispute. The earnings of the Department amounted to £449.

XXVIII.—GENERAL.

110. The outstanding event of the year under review was the honour bestowed upon Ashanti by the visit of the Heir Apparent His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Kumasi on Good Friday, April the 10th.

Days before the eventful occasion hundreds of people were seen arriving in Kumasi from places as far as 200 miles away in order to pay homage and to show their loyalty by being permitted to gaze upon their future King.

After the formalities were carried out at the Railway station, His Royal Highness attended a Durbar where 46 Ashanti Head and many other Chiefs from the Northern Territories assembled together with their various retinues.

Each Head Chief was presented to His Royal Highness and after addresses of welcome were read, His Royal Highness walked round the very large semi-circle of Chiefs and bade them good-bye by shaking hands with each one, an act which was very much appreciated and which will be ever remembered in the future history of Ashanti.

His Royal Highness left Kumasi that night after having carried out various official duties in the afternoon.

111. Ashanti also had the pleasure of welcoming Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, who during her short stay visited all the larger towns.

112. The writer ventures to think that the Chiefs, people, officials and the Mercantile community should feel proud of the enormous development in every direction which took place during the year under review. In particular the inauguration of the Kumasi Public Health Board, the great improvement in village sanitation and layouts, and the increased mileage and consolidation of the motor roads in every division—especially in the Western Province—stand out as landmarks in the history of Ashanti.

113. If the rate of progress which has been achieved is maintained at its present high level, the future prosperity of Ashanti is assured.

F. W. F. JACKSON,
Acting Chief Commissioner,
Ashanti.

8th July, 1926.